

MILITARY

Pearl Harbor survivor and USS Arizona crew member dies at 97

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Jalen Smith leading No. 9 Terrapins to the top of Big Ten

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Warship crash survivors say Navy struggled to treat them

By MEGAN ROSE,
KENGO TSUTSUMI AND
T. CHRISTIAN MILLER

ProPublica

Two and a half years after a massive oil tanker cleaved the side of the USS John S. McCain, leaving a gaping hole and killing 10 sailors, hospital corpsman Mike Collins is still haunted by the aftermath.

That morning in August 2017, awoken by the thunderous shaking, the 23-year-old was thrust

into round-the-clock motion: Tending to the chemical burns of the sailors whose sleeping area flooded, their flesh raw from the fuel that spilled in with the seawater. Collecting the heavy stack of the dead's medical records. Staying up late trying to purge the stink of diesel

'Why I wasn't getting any help was drowning me in stress.'

Mike Collins
USS John S.
McCain crash survivor

that clung to their uniforms, so the clothes could be returned to grieving families.

Then came the hand. Delivered in a red biohazard bag and left casually on the cot in the McCain's medical quarters for Collins to process was what seemed to be a perfectly formed hand, except the muscles, tendons and bones had been stripped out. It was a glove of translucent skin.

Even as the months turned to years after the accident, that image, down to the whorls and ridges on the dead man's fingers, intruded into Collins' life. It popped up when he saw water wash over his own hand or when he just leaned back on the couch to relax.

That gruesome image would spin into unanswerable questions about all the dead men: "How long of the process were they alive for?"

SEE SURVIVORS ON PAGE 6



FIGHTING SPIRIT

Marine uses wrestling past to train martial arts teachers

By BROCK VERGAKIS

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

Sgt. Melissa Paul is a wrestler who has been fighting all her life.

Fighting through the pain of growing up without a father since she was 4, when hers was sent to prison in Colorado.

Fighting to get an education in Alaska when her drug-abusing mother wanted her to quit high school and to make a living fishing instead.

Fighting to find a safe home when her mother paid a friend to take her off her hands, for a television.

"When I was younger, I would always pray, 'God, I just want a family. I just want a family.' And I ended up never really having a family, so then I kind of got angry at God," Paul said. "I didn't realize that I did have a family with my wrestling team."

The Marine based at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va., who trains martial arts instructors has been wrestling for as long as she can remember, long before it was common for women to do so.

She had little control over her circumstances, but when it came to wrestling, Paul found she could be in complete control. She was dominant on the wrestling mat.

She won competition after competition while she wasn't sure where her mother was, where her next meal would come from or where she would sleep each night.

"I knew that if I worked hard enough in wrestling, I could be anybody," she said. "So wrestling became like my mentor, and it became like my parent, it became everything to me. It became my foundation."

Living in a small community near Anchorage, she started sleeping on the couches of her high school teammates, keeping her clothes in a trash bag.

SEE WRESTLING ON PAGE 5

Marine Sgt. Melissa Paul stands at the obstacle course on Naval Weapons Station Yorktown in Virginia on Jan. 31. Following a successful wrestling career — including being named an Olympic alternate in 2012 — Paul now serves as an instructor trainer in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

KARLIN MCKEOWN
The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

BUSINESS/WEATHER

GM to leave Australia, New Zealand and Thailand

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors decision to pull out of Australia, New Zealand and Thailand as part of a strategy to exit markets that don't produce adequate returns on investments raised dismay Monday from officials concerned over job losses.

The company said in a statement Sunday that plans to wind down sales, engineering and design operations for its historic Holden brand in Australia and New Zealand in 2021. It also plans

to sell its Rayong factory in Thailand to China's Great Wall Motors and withdraw the Chevrolet brand from Thailand by the end of this year.

"This is a very disappointing outcome," said Karen Andrews, Australia's minister for Industry, Science and Technology. She said 500 workers would lose their jobs.

GM has 828 employees in Australia and New Zealand and another 1,500 in Thailand, the company said.

GM has struggled in Asia in the past year. Its International Operations, which include China, lost \$200 million last year, including \$100 million in the fourth quarter.

GM's CEO, Mary Barra, said the company wants to focus on markets where it can drive strong returns, scaling back operations in Australia, New Zealand and Thailand to selling niche specialty vehicles. GM is making the same moves in Japan, Russia and Europe.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 18)	\$1.136
Dollar buys (Feb. 18)	40.898
British pound (Feb. 18)	\$1.34
Japanese yen (Feb. 18)	107.00
South Korean won (Feb. 18)	1,153.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3008
Canada (Dollar)	1.2333
China (Yuan)	6.9803
Denmark (Krone)	6.8917
Egypt (Pound)	15.0386
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.0839/0.9226
Hungary (Forint)	309.74
Israel (Shekel)	3.4238
Japan (Yen)	109.90
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3052
Norway (Krone)	9.2498
Philippines (Peso)	50.57
Poland (Zloty)	3.93
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3887
South Korea (Won)	1,184.33
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9815
Thailand (Baht)	31.17
Turkey (Lira)	6.0496

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.58
3-month bill	1.53
30-year bond	2.05

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

USS Arizona attack survivor Stratton dies

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Donald Stratton, a sailor severely burned while aboard the doomed USS Arizona during the Japanese surprise attack Dec. 7, 1941, died Saturday at his home in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was 97.

His passing leaves only two living survivors of the battleship, Lou Conter and Ken Potts.

Stratton's wife of 69 years, Velma, and son Randy announced his death in a Facebook post Sunday, saying they were beside him when he "passed away peacefully."

"One of Donald's final wishes was that people remember Pearl Harbor and the men aboard the USS Arizona," the posting said. "Share their story and never forget those who gave all for our great country."

Stratton spent much of his later life doing just that, and in 2016 he published the memoir "All the Gallant Men," recounting the surprise attack, and his injuries, recovery and subsequent return to combat in World War II.

Stratton often summed up the happenstance of being aboard the Arizona on the morning of the attack with, "Everybody had to be somewhere. We were there."

The attack that turned the Arizona into an inferno killed 1,177 sailors and Marines, and Stratton barely made it off alive, burned over two-thirds of his body.

Born July 14, 1922, Stratton was raised in the small Nebraska town of Red Cloud



MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

Donald Stratton, seen here in 2017, was severely burned while on the USS Arizona when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He died Saturday.

and joined the Navy in the fall of 1940, he wrote in the memoir, which was coauthored by Ken Gire. Within a couple of months, he was one of the roughly 1,500 men serving aboard the USS Arizona. He was assigned to one of the ship's five portside anti-aircraft guns.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, he stepped onto an outside deck, catching sight of Japanese dive bombers attack-

ing Ford Island, the berthing point for the eight massive warships of Battleship Row: California, Maryland, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia and Arizona.

With no time to fire up the Arizona's boilers to steam out of port, the ship's broadside became an easy target. At one point, a bomb ignited the forward magazines, causing a catastrophic explosion.

"Men stumbled around on the deck like human torches, each collapsing into a flaming pile of flesh," Stratton wrote. "Others jumped into the water. When they did, you could hear them sizzle."

"My T-shirt had caught fire, burning my arms and my back. My legs were burned from my ankles to my thighs. My face was seared. The hair on my head had been singed off, and part of my ear was gone."

Stratton and a handful of sailors huddled together likely would have died if not for a sailor aboard the nearby repair ship Vestal who managed to toss a rope across to the burning ship.

"We had to go hand over hand on that line, and that was probably 70 or 80 feet," Stratton wrote. "You know, you get to the middle of the line and it starts upping again. That was really tough, with my hands and everything burned."

About two weeks after the attack, he was transferred to a hospital specializing in burn treatment on Mare Island near San Francisco to begin a long recovery, which included a treatment using maggots to eat

away the dead and diseased skin left from the burns.

He was medically discharged from the Navy in September 1942 and returned to Red Cloud.

But as the following weeks passed in his hometown, he came to realize that "everything innocent and trusting and carefree" had been ripped from him with the attack, and he was overwhelmed with the urge to be back in the Navy.

He was allowed to reenlist in February 1944 but was required to repeat basic training.

Back aboard ship, he saw action in New Guinea, the Philippines and Okinawa. He left the Navy at war's end, but he couldn't give up the sea. He worked for a diving company off the coast of California, and later on oil drilling platforms at sea.

USS Arizona survivors are allowed to have urns of their cremated remains entombed in the sunken hull of the ship, which is now a memorial site.

Stratton said in the past that instead, he would be buried in Nebraska.

National Park Service historian Daniel Martinez, a longtime friend, explained Stratton's thinking during a news conference in 2014.

"He said to me that he came so close to being burned alive that cremation probably wasn't the way to go," Martinez said.

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Marine military working dogs are expanding their skills in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — Yenkie is happy-lucky, hyperactive and a friend to all. The much older Diego is calm, seasoned and intense.

What these two military working dogs at Marine Corps Base Hawaii have in common, however, is an exceptional aptitude for tracking by scent.

It's a trait that Staff Sgt. Matthew Settle, the kennel master in charge of the 14 working dogs employed by the Provost Marshal's Office, recognized last summer when the base commenced a pilot program to expand the dogs' skill set to include tracking humans at great distances.

Most military working dogs are "dual-purpose," meaning they have been trained to both subdue suspects and detect hidden objects, such as bombs or narcotics.

Yenkie and Diego — both German shepherds — showed the drive, trainability and personality to learn tracking quickly, Settle says.

In October, the pair became certified as trackers, making them the only working dogs certified in three skills in the Defense Department's law enforcement community, Settle said.

"This is still a proof of concept," said Sgt. Brandon Sperlazza, Yenkie's handler. "We're still trying to prove this can be replicated over and over again,

so that's what we're doing now. We're training two new dogs to have that asset of tracking, and we're seeing where that goes."

If they are successful at morphing this kennel of dual-purpose dogs into multidiscipline K9s, such a framework could be transferred to law enforcement entities at other Marine Corps installations or even other services, Settle said.

"We're trying to progress to become a larger force multiplier, with costing less money," Settle said. "That's really kind of what we're trying to prove here."

The need for tracking dogs at the Hawaii base became apparent in January 2019 during a fruitless search for a fleeing suspect by provost officers.

"There was all kinds of intelligence or information saying that he was dangerous and violent," Settle said. "He ended up running off base and taking off and getting away."

Soon after, there was an incident involving a search for lost hikers.

"There were different situations where a tracking ability would come into play," Settle said. "We had a gap in capabilities here at the Provost Marshal's Office."

Settle had spent four years training combat tracking dogs at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas before being assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"I got over here and the stars aligned," he said.

He sought and received permission from the Hawaii base and the military working dog program at the Pentagon to expand the kennel's tracking capacity.

Sperlazza and Danny Narvaza, Diego's civilian handler, began training them to track last summer.

During a recent demonstration for Stars and Stripes at the K9 obstacle course, Narvaza tossed a green tennis ball while Diego was not looking. The dog put his nose to the ground, sniffing in ever-widening circles.

"See? Watch how he keeps his nose to the ground," Narvaza said. In a half minute he finds the ball.

Many dogs would search for a ball by scanning the area with their eyes, but the sniffing stance came naturally for Diego and Yenkie, putting them to the head of the tracking class, Narvaza said.

With the right training and methodology, virtually all working dogs can be trained to track, but the aptitude possessed by Yenkie and Diego allowed the pilot program to "put the pedal to the metal," Settle said.

Soon after being certified to track last fall, Diego was called on to find a runaway child.

He was given an article of the child's clothing to smell.

"We were able to locate the runaway child in an entirely different neighborhood," Narvaza said.

"We didn't know what she was



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Military working dog Yenkie looks at handler Sgt. Brandon Sperlazza as he awaits instruction at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, on Feb. 7.

going to do because they said she was possibly going to harm herself."

Narvaza recalled thinking at the time, "Wow, this really works!"

"This thing will close the gap between either saving a life or losing a life," he said.

Both handlers say the learning experience has energized their dogs.

"With this tracking, he's al-

ways excited to come out," Sperlazza said of Yenkie. "For him, he always likes a challenge to do something new. Doing the same thing over and over again bores him so he gets distracted easily." "This whole tracking thing has filled his cup," Narvaza said of the 7-year-old dog. "It's like the most exciting thing for him."

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MILITARY

Fighting 'factual sufficiency'

Marine family working to change UCMJ after appeals court dismisses colonel's sexual abuse conviction

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

A three-judge panel from the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in July overturned a child sex abuse conviction against Marine Col. Daniel Wilson without ever hearing from the 7-year-old accuser in person.

In a move unique to military justice, the appellate judges supplanted the court-martial jury's decision and made their own determinations about Wilson's guilt.

However, unlike the jury, they saw no witnesses testify, including the alleged victim, and made their decision based solely on trial transcripts and videotaped interviews from early in the investigation.

The panel overturned the verdict of the jury's four generals and three colonels, citing a legal standard known as "factual sufficiency."

The July dismissal angered the family of the girl, who was 6 when the abuse allegedly occurred, as well as advocates for victims of sexual abuse who argue that civilian appellate courts could not, in most cases, make a similar decision.

Wilson was released from the brig in October and just last week, allowed to retire, while the girl's parents, Marine Lt. Col. Breck Perry and his wife, Adrian Perry, began to lobby members of Congress to change the Uniform Code of Military Justice to strip that appellate review powers from military appellate judges and bring the UCMJ more in line with the civilian justice system.

"The powers of factual sufficiency review given to military criminal appeals courts need to be revoked," Breck Perry said at a news conference Oct. 4 in Okinawa, Japan, where he is stationed.

"As it stands now, [appellate judges have] the ability to overturn a conviction of a predator based solely on his/her interpretation of a cold stack of court papers," he said. "Under its current construct, the criminal appeals process is a failed system that requires an overhaul now."

Factual sufficiency

The Perry family's ordeal began in summer 2016 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Their daughter, 6, said Wilson, then the II Marine Expeditionary Force operations officer, had touched her inappropriately.

During a court-martial in 2017, Wilson was convicted of the sexual abuse of a child, six counts of conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman and absence without leave. He was sentenced to 5½ years in prison and dismissed from the service. His wife, Susan Wilson, denied the charges against her husband in multiple emails to Stars and Stripes after the conviction.

The Perry family sued the Marine Corps for \$25 million in



ADAM MILLER/U.S. Marine Corps

In July 2019, a three-judge panel from the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals overturned a child sex abuse conviction against Marine Col. Daniel Wilson.

June 2018 for not punishing Wilson for earlier misconduct which, they alleged, allowed him to prey on their daughter, but they later dropped the suit.

Wilson appealed the court-martial conviction, asking for a factual sufficiency review.

Factual sufficiency consists of two basic principles under military justice: "sufficiency of the evidence" and "weight of the evidence."

Sufficiency of the evidence means there is evidence of each element of the crime, without regard to the strength of that evidence, said Anthony Musto, co-executive director of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's Specialized Practice Division. This means, if the evidence is believed, in a light most favorable to the prosecution, a reasonable jury could convict.

Weight of the evidence is a measure of whether evidence points jurors to one side or the other, such as a conviction, he said.

In the July 1 appellate decision, Senior Judge Navy Cmdr. Angela Tang took issue with the weight of the evidence against Wilson. She listed inconsistencies in the girl's statements and testimony at trial to render it moot. She also cited examples — from expert testimony at trial — that both explained and undermined those inconsistencies.

"There was no other compelling evidence in the case, the panel's decision states. Without ever seeing the alleged victim testify under oath, the panel dismissed the charges with prejudice, meaning they cannot be refiled.

"This is a particularly cruel result," said Don Christensen, a former Air Force chief prosecutor, military judge and current presi-

dent of Protect Our Defenders Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to ending rape and sexual assault in the military. Christensen and the foundation provided legal assistance and support to the Perry family in their suit against the Marine Corps.

"It is not easy to go through a court-martial, especially as a child, and to later have three adults sitting in an office in [Washington, D.C.] attack your credibility having never met you, never observed you, is just not what American justice is about."

On Feb. 5, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Gregory Slavonic allowed Wilson to retire with an "other than honorable" discharge as a lieutenant colonel, according to a copy of the decision. He declined to consider the sexual abuse allegations made against Wilson.

Wilson now plans to file federal lawsuits against the alleged victims and the U.S. military, "alleging defamation of character and malicious prosecution," his attorney Andrew Cherkasky told the military website Task & Purpose.

Second-guessing

Having someone accuse another person of sexual abuse and testify under oath is generally considered enough evidence to send a case to a judge or a jury, meeting the bar for sufficiency of the evidence. The weight of the evidence is then left up to the judge or jury to decide.

In the civilian justice system, appellate judges generally won't consider challenges to weight of the evidence, Musto said. "There's a reason for that. The trial of fact — the jury or the judge — they

observe things. They hear the tone of voice; they see the facial expressions; they see the body language of all of these people that are testifying. ... Appellate courts tend very much to say, 'We're going to let that trier of fact make that determination.'"

The federal courts are similar, according to Lisa Schenk, former senior Army appellate judge and George Washington University Law professor. They are required to view evidence in the light "most favorable to the government, resolving conflicts in the government's favor, and accepting all reasonable inferences that support the verdict," Schenk wrote in a 2016 paper in the Southwestern Law Review. They will not second-guess credibility determinations made by judge or jury in lower courts.

In the military system, the opposite is true.

Convictions are not affirmed by military appellate courts unless the judges believe in guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, which essentially means the cases are retried. Military appellate judges don't have to give any deference to decisions made at earlier trials.

Christensen said the military practice sends the wrong message.

"What it's saying is we don't trust court members in the military to deliver verdicts that are appropriate," he said. "And if you don't have enough trust in the very foundation of your justice process, then I don't know why you have a justice process."

'Outdated'

The Defense Department in 2015 recommended that Congress amend the UCMJ code that

covers courts of criminal appeals and factual sufficiency as part of the Military Justice Act of 2016, DOD spokeswoman Lisa Lawrence wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Military legal experts recommended forcing appellate judges to give deference to the trial court on "controverted questions of fact," the recommendation said.

While appellate judges would still have the authority to overturn a conviction, they would have to be "clearly convinced the finding was against the weight of the evidence."

The Senate passed the reform as proposed, but it was rejected by the House Armed Services Committee and stricken from the final defense authorization bill, Lawrence said.

Legal scholars and academics, however, overwhelmingly favor the reform. They point to two UCMJ articles — prohibiting and punishing unlawful command influence — to show that the factual sufficiency review of weight of evidence is no longer needed.

"I believe it's outdated," said former Air Force judge and University of New Mexico law professor Joshua Kastenberg.

Matt Pinsker, professor of homeland security at Virginia Commonwealth University, agreed.

"I would advise it to be removed," the Reserve Army lawyer said.

Kastenberg and Pinsker mentioned other actions that could strengthen the independence of the judiciary and protections for the accused, such as separating military judges from the Judge Advocate General's Corps and requiring unanimous trial verdicts.

Southwestern Law School professor and retired Air Force judge Rachel VanLandingham, the former top legal adviser for international law at U.S. Central Command, said factual sufficiency review makes justice subject to the cognitive biases of appellate judges.

"This [power] is dangerous," she said. "This allows judges to decide based on words on a paper that they don't believe a witness. That is the quintessential job of the jury," she said. "The military factual sufficiency review is a complete anachronism and it should have been eradicated from the military justice system decades ago."

Adrian Perry knows it will be an uphill battle to get members of Congress to reconsider factual sufficiency review.

"Our family has been put through absolute hell between the loss of innocence in our child at the hands of a man who then justice from the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals," Perry said. "What happened to our daughter at the appellate level of military justice is a disgrace to our country and an embarrassment to the military justice system."

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WAR/MILITARY

Taliban: US deal to be signed by the month's end

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
AND HAQ NAWAZ KHAN
The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Taliban said Monday that a peace deal with the United States will be signed by the end of the month, with the top U.S. negotiator describing himself as "cautiously optimistic" about the process.

Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, a senior Taliban leader and member of the political commission in Doha, Qatar, said in a video message shared with journalists that after negotiations, "both sides have initiated the final draft of the peace agreement. Now talks are concluded."

This is the first formal statement released by the Taliban since the United States announced a peace deal with the movement on Friday.

Hanafi said "both sides have agreed to sign the agreement by the end of this month," after making a "favorable environment" for signing of the agreement." What Hanafi appears to be describing is what U.S. negotiators and Afghan government officials are calling a period of reduced violence that approximates a ceasefire and will last seven days.

Hanafi gave no further details on what a favorable environment would entail. American and Afghan officials have also been tight-lipped regarding details of the violence reduction.

In his first public comments since the peace talks break through, U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, the chief negotiator with the Taliban, said he's "cautiously optimistic."

"But I am realistic enough to know that there are lots of challenges ahead," he added.

Khalilzad said that while he had received security guarantees from both the Afghan government and the Taliban, the poten-

tial remained for "spoilers" both inside Afghanistan and outside the country to upset months of diplomatic progress.

"I believe that maybe better than any time in the last couple of decades, there is an opportunity for peace," he said, speaking in Islamabad at a United Nations conference on refugees marking 40 years of conflict in Afghanistan.

Some Afghan officials said the reduced violence would be countrywide and all parties to the conflict would halt planned offensive operations. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to discuss the deal publicly.

There is no official word on when the reduction in violence will begin, but it's expected to be sometime this week.

If that reduction in violence holds, it will be followed by the signing of a broader U.S.-Taliban agreement under which thousands of U.S. troops will withdraw and the Taliban will begin direct negotiations with Afghan leaders.

Hanafi mentioned talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, but he said such a step would only be taken after a mass prisoner exchange.

"When the process of releasing of 5,000 (Taliban) prisoners ... is completed, then intra-Afghan talks will begin," he said. The Taliban prisoners would be exchanged for 1,000 members of the Afghan security forces, according to Hanafi.

But Afghan officials have said previously that the exchange would be discussed during the intra-Afghan talks and not before.

The broader U.S.-agreement is nearly identical to one negotiated in September that was canceled by President Donald Trump after a Taliban attack that killed a U.S. soldier before it could be signed.



KAITLIN MCKEOWN/The Virginian-Pilot

Marine Sgt. Melissa Paul in the Marine Corps Martial Arts training pit, Jan. 31, at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va. Following a successful wrestling career, Paul now serves as an instructor trainer in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Wrestling: First female wrestler in Marines finds meaning and purpose with her passion

FROM FRONT PAGE

A guidance counselor at her school who was married to a wrestling coach at another school soon learned what was going on. They initially paid other teachers out of their own pockets to take Paul in.

Eventually, they brought her into their home. Paul fought that at first, too. She wanted to be emancipated at 16 because she didn't want to be a burden on anyone.

But the guidance counselor she now calls mom let her know they would support her and her wrestling dreams.

"She said, 'God has something planned for you. You're going to go and wrestle and do something great.' And so I ended up staying with them, and it was the best decision ever because living with them, I think, I think God kind of put wrestling in my life. Not to be like an Olympic champion, but to kind of make me be the best person I could possibly be."

When she graduated from high school and turned 18, she decided to pursue wrestling full time and

moved to the Olympic Training Center. She became a national champion and took third place in a world competition.

During the 2012 Olympic trials she came just short of making the team, earning a spot as an alternate on that squad.

An ankle injury ended her dreams of making the 2016 squad, but she used the time while she recovered to speak out about child abuse and neglect. She gave speeches and met with and encouraged foster children.

"I talked about how blood doesn't make you family. People caring about you, and, you know, just being a team makes you a family," she said.

Eventually, Paul's injury healed, and the Department of Defense took notice that she still had major wrestling talent.

The military sponsors athletic competitions around the world and was looking to get women involved in wrestling.

Always eager to challenge herself, Paul decided to join the toughest branch she could imagine, the Marine Corps. She be-

came the first female wrestler in the Marines and only the second in the U.S. military.

In the Marines, she continued to push herself beyond wrestling and her day job as an administrative specialist. She became a force fitness instructor, a martial arts instructor and then one of about 200 Marines who trains martial-arts instructors.

At Yorktown, she trains with Marines who are part of elite Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Teams that go to hot spots around the world to protect embassies and consulates.

In the Marines, she also found she has yet another family where people look out for each other. She wants those she leads at Marine Corps Security Regiment to know she has their back and always will. She doesn't want to just make better Marines, she wants to make better people.

That's what family — even a family of fighters — is for.

"All the stuff I went through in wrestling and life wasn't about me," she said. "It was so I can touch other people."

Syrian military makes major advance in rebel-controlled territory

By ALBERT AHI
AND SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria raised its troops Monday for rapidly taking over rebel-controlled territory in the country's northwest, vowing to continue to chase armed groups "wherever they are."

Separately, state media reported that Syrian authorities had uncovered the previous day a mass grave containing nearly 70 bodies in eastern Ghouta, an area outside of the capital that rebel fighters lost control of in April 2018.

The ongoing military advance in northwest Syria came hours after troops consolidated the government's hold over the key Aleppo province, capturing over 30 villages and hamlets in the western countryside in a single day and securing the provincial capital that had for years remained within range of opposition fire.

Since December, Syrian troops have been on the offensive in the area and the nearby Idlib province, biting bit by bit at the crowded rebel enclave, home to over 3 million people.

Troops were removing barriers and roadblocks on Monday in villages and

districts that were earlier controlled by Syrian rebels, state TV reported. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitoring group, reported clashes in Jabal Sheikh Akeel, northwest of the city of Aleppo, the provincial capital.

Rescuers and a medical aid worker said airstrikes Monday on Darat Izza, a town still in opposition hands in northwestern Aleppo, put two health facilities out of service. One hospital was directly hit, wounding two staffers, said Mazen Kewara of the Syrian American Medical Society, a group that supports the hospital's dialysis unit. Footage from the rescue team, Syrian

Civil Defense, showed extensive damage. Another airstrike hit close by the other medical facility, some 150 yards away.

The developments sparked late night celebrations in the city, with state media showing images of residents waving flags and dancing in the streets packed with vehicles.

Gen. Ali Mayhoub, spokesman for the Syrian Armed Forces, said in a televised speech that Syrian troops were continuing their ground advances to "eradicate what is left of terrorist groups" in Syria, congratulating the soldiers for the swift advances in "record time."

MILITARY

Survivors: Treatment for McCain, Fitzgerald crews has been uneven

FROM FRONT PAGE

"What were their final moments like?"

In August 2018, Collins was finally diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression, and he began routine therapy.

The McCain crash was one of two deadly Navy collisions in the summer of 2017. Two months before the McCain, another destroyer, the USS Fitzgerald, also collided with a civilian ship in the Pacific, drowning seven sailors in their sleeping quarters. In all, 17 sailors died in the worst maritime mishaps since the 1970s.

The fallout for Collins and many other survivors is still acute.

But the Navy's efforts with the crews of the McCain and the Fitzgerald — some 550 enlisted sailors and officers — have been uneven, resulting in prompt, thoughtful treatment for some and leaving others mired in depression and anxiety, unable to access care for weeks, even months, according to documents and interviews with dozens of sailors, officers and their families. Some affected sailors and officers have even left, or been forced out of, the service.

The Navy's efforts have been complicated by some of the very causes that led to the crashes: chronically undermanned ships in desperate need of sailors — even those fresh from a deadly crash — and a relentless push for missions, both compounded by the sudden loss of two key destroyers.

"Treatment decisions are always subordinated to those demands," said M. David Rudd, a psychologist specializing in military PTSD and scientific director for the National Center for Veterans Studies. In the military's warrior culture, relying on sailors to take the initiative to ask for help, Rudd said, is "profoundly ineffective."

That and the sheer number of sailors and officers potentially affected by the deadly collisions pose challenges for the Navy in how to properly respond.

Project ORION

The Navy sent a team of mental health specialists to help the crews in the immediate aftermath of each collision and launched a long-term pilot program, Project ORION, to track them. The project called or emailed each sailor at six months and one year after the crashes to ascertain how they were doing and whether they needed mental health services.

The Navy provided a written statement about its mental health response to the two accidents. Ed Gulick, a Navy Medicine spokesman, said Project ORION proved to be an important "safety net" and that sailors across all ranks "appeared to greatly benefit from ORION's proactive, nonmedical approach of long-term outreach." The Navy plans on making the pilot a permanent program, he said.

The program was able to reach about two-thirds of the sailors, the Navy reported, and about 20% of those requested mental health help.

Experts said that number is consistent with the percentage of service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan who developed PTSD symptoms, and that a similar percentage of the sailors who did not respond to ORION likely also experienced PTSD symptoms.

In interviews, sailors described vastly different experiences depending on what ship they were on and when in the process they were assessed, if at all. McCain Senior Chief Petty Officer Ben Chester said the Navy response was extraordinary, with a team of doctors awaiting the crew in Singa-

pore and readily available follow-up care.

The Navy also set up a 24-hour help line at the base at Yokosuka, Japan, and chaplains arranged for a resilience retreat at a military resort in the country for Fitzgerald and McCain sailors.

The sailors' trauma also led to some impromptu treatment. A Navy doctor started a special group therapy session, attended by upward of 70 Fitzgerald sailors, after so many of them sought mental health services. That group has continued in smaller iterations at different bases in the United States as sailors left Japan for new Navy posts.

Missed diagnosis

Still, some sailors were missed. Collins, for example, who started having acute symptoms about four months after the collision, would go a year without a diagnosis, in spite of having regular contact with mental health professionals. Collins said although he was suffering from nightmares and other symptoms, he may not have been presenting as severe enough.

It was not until the 7th Fleet commander required all remaining McCain sailors to be screened for fitness of duty in August 2018 that Collins was flagged as having PTSD. He went on limited duty.

Another former McCain sailor said two mental health screenings over a year and a half determined he was fine. It wasn't until he transferred back to Japan in the spring of 2018 that he started to feel irritable, anxious and unable to sleep, with "almost no ability to feel happiness." On his third screening, he was diagnosed with PTSD and depression and started therapy.

Other sailors from both ships didn't draw notice until their coping mechanisms, such as excessive drinking, landed them in trouble.

Some Fitzgerald sailors began suffering symptoms after the Navy ordered many of them onto other short-staffed destroyers in the Japan-based 7th Fleet soon after the collision. The Fitzgerald was so badly damaged that it had to be loaded on a ship and taken back to the U.S. for several years of repairs.

It was a smart logistical move, "but they didn't take the human aspect into account," said Will Marquis, a petty officer on the Fitzgerald who was moved to another warship. Marquis escaped the flooded berthing compartment in which some of his shipmates drowned.

Some Navy leaders believed that quickly shifting the sailors to a new posting would also help them return to normalcy and reinforce a sense of mission and purpose.

But in interviews, some sailors said that the return to sea, often with unsympathetic leaders, was retraumatizing for many of them. They were often assigned back to the same kinds of destroyers, sleeping in the identical bunks, from which some of them had barely escaped with their lives.

One sailor who escaped the flooding on the McCain said that for years after the crash he would have nightmares whenever he was in a berthing compartment on



Petty Officer Third Class Mike Collins is a U.S. Navy corpsman who was on the USS John S. McCain in 2017 when it collided with a merchant ship off the coast of Singapore, killing 10 sailors. He is now stationed at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida, where he continues to deal with PTSD caused by the crash.

another ship. One day, as the two-year anniversary of the collision approached, the ship he was on made an unexpected sharp turn, sending a chair scraping across the floor.

"That instantly took me back," he said. "That sound."

He peed himself.

Returning to duty

Rudd, the PTSD expert, said for those sailors who were symptomatic, quickly returning to duty "exacerbates the problem and can potentially fuel a chronic problem of PTSD." Symptoms like anxiety and nightmares could become entrenched and more resistant to treatment, he said.

Thrusting important tasks on sailors who are still recovering and may not be able to fully focus on their work also "elevates the risk that something else will happen down the road," Rudd said.

When Marquis first stepped on the USS McCampbell, another destroyer, a few months after the Fitzgerald crashed, he was excited because "I wanted to get back to doing what I do."

But despite his decade and half of service, Marquis, 35, found himself working harder to simply focus and being unmotivated in a way he'd never been before. He started smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day, years after he'd quit, ate nothing but junk food and retreated from any social life.

During that time the McCampbell didn't leave port, but every five nights, sailors had to do an overnight on the ship. Marquis said he couldn't handle sleeping in his assigned berthing compartment "because I almost died in there." So he brought in a sleeping pad and bag to crash on the floor in his office, which was above the water line. "That's just where I felt more comfortable," he said.

Marquis said he knew of two sailors who were sent to another destroyer and strung up hammocks among the guns in the cold

armory and slept there the entire time they were on deployment.

About 10 Fitzgerald sailors were reassigned with him to the McCampbell, he said. For months, sometimes several times a day, there'd be a knock on his door and a former Fitzgerald sailor would break down in his office, Marquis said. One young sailor told him she couldn't handle being on a ship but was afraid she'd ruin her career if she asked for help.

As part of the Navy's post-collision reckoning, the McCampbell and other destroyers started doing damage control drills that were the exact scenario of the Fitzgerald crash. Marquis said he had to talk to those in charge: "Dude, you got like 10 people from the Fitzgerald here." He said he heard other ships actually called the scenario the "Fitzgerald" drill.

One day, Marquis said, a senior enlisted leader cornered him. The leader said that he'd heard good things about Marquis, but that the petty officer wasn't living up to his reputation. Marquis said that when he explained that he was trying, but was struggling mentally, the leader essentially told him to suck it up. "Basically trying to come at me like I was weak," he said.

Seeking help

Marquis said he knew something was wrong and it was getting worse but he didn't want to abandon the other Fitzgerald sailors on the McCampbell, many of whom were junior. The sailor he was replacing on the McCampbell saw him struggling and pushed him to get help, Marquis said, telling him, "You're not right."

After about two to three months on the McCampbell, he said, he finally sought mental health counseling. In just 20 minutes, he said, a mental health specialist said he needed to leave his duties on the ship.

Marquis transferred to the Washington area, where he was able to get help at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. He has been diagnosed with PTSD, major depressive disorder and a traumatic brain injury and has since medically retired, along with at least nine other Fitzgerald sailors, Marquis said.

"We were all OK when we were a crew still," Marquis said. "It was when they separated us that we started either noticing these underlying issues or we actually started developing them."

"We were all OK when we were a crew still. It was when they separated us that we started either noticing these underlying issues or we actually started developing them."

Will Marquis
petty officer on the USS Fitzgerald

SEE PAGE 7

MILITARY

FROM PAGE 6

On their new ships, some sailors said the fact that they had been aboard a ship that crashed made them instant outcasts. Several former Fitzgerald officers said sailors told them that they were made fun of by their new shipmates. "Don't let the Fitzgerald sailor drive!" their shipmates would joke. It made the separation from the Fitzgerald crew even more isolating.

More than 100 sailors from the McCain were able to stay together after the crash because the destroyer could be repaired in Japan with some of the crew on it. That camaraderie, many sailors said, helped their recovery.

But it also meant they had to walk down the pier every day to board a ship with a "massive puncture," said Collins, the hospital corpsman who dealt with the dismembered hand. "Your heart kind of sinks every time you walk into work."

The cafeteria where the sailors ate had served as a medical triage after the crash, filled with the injured. Every third day many of the sailors had overnight duty.

Collins said "every day was like trudging through mud." His refuge in the aftermath of the collision was to just go numb. He remembered in early 2018 his wife giving him the welcome news that she was pregnant and he couldn't even muster a smile. "OK," was all he recalled saying.

To keep the image of the ghostly hand at bay, he learned to stay in constant motion. During most busy days he could outrun it, he said, but at night, vivid nightmares often jolted him upright.

About a year after the crash, the Navy offered the McCain sailors still assigned to the ship an option to transfer to a new job early. Almost 40 sailors took it, including Collins. He left Japan six months ahead of

schedule and took a post in Jacksonville, Fla., where his parents live. He spent several months on limited duty there.

He was able to join a Fitzgerald therapy group already in place that met once a week. The group now meets once a month as sailors have progressed in their recovery.

Civilian ship sued

A group of McCain sailors, including the estates of some of the sailors killed in the collision, has sued the owners of the civilian ship involved in the accident, the Alnic MC, in federal court in the Southern District of New York. The McCain sailors and the families contend that the Liberator-flagged Alnic was, at least in part, responsible for the collision because it failed to properly man its bridge and take appropriate action to avoid the collision. In the suit, at least 40 McCain sailors say that they have suffered debilitating psychological injuries as a result.

The owner of the Alnic, Energetic Tank Inc., contends in court documents that it was not liable because the collision was "solely the fault" of the McCain, which violated several maritime regulations. The case is slowly moving toward trial as both sides interview witnesses and experts around the globe.

A petty officer told the court in a letter asking to be admitted to the case that when the berthing "flooded with fuel, crewmates were screaming for help. As I helped one out of the hatch he repeatedly screamed, 'Don't leave me, I have a daughter.'"

A chief petty officer, who sustained a head injury and chemical burns on his hands in the crash and during rescue efforts, wrote that he now suffers from

PTSD and depression as well as a "lack of confidence and a host of other associated psychological problems that makes it difficult to do things."

Interviews and documents show that the Navy has struggled to provide a consistency of treatment over time. Collins said mental health services in Yokosuka, where both ships were based, had appointments set aside for Fitzgerald and McCain sailors.

But the longer sailors took to ask for help the less likely they were to have a positive experience. The ORION project stopped reaching out after a year — and some sailors reported hearing from the coordinators only once.

After he waited weeks, the sailor who'd wet himself said he finally got his first mental health appointment. He related his story of flashbacks and nightmares, he said, hopeful he'd get help. But nobody ever followed up as promised. When he called the office, he said, he was told there was no record he'd ever been there.

Waiting for appointments

Some sailors said once they transferred back to U.S. bases — sometimes specifically to receive treatment — they often faced similar delays, spending weeks, and even months, waiting for appointments.

One such sailor who'd gone to San Diego, Machinists Mate Third Class Eli Swantkoski, said he arrived in November and wasn't seen until February.

"Why I wasn't getting any help was drowning me in stress," he said.

In part to ensure the sailors didn't get lost in the shuffle as their careers moved on, the Navy assigned all Fitzgerald sailors a code, 0006, as well as one for all McCain

sailors, 0007. It shows up on the sailors' personnel records so that commanders, ship leaders, assignment managers, health care providers and others will be aware that they served on one of the ships.

One retired captain said he thought it was a great idea to alert commanders and other leaders so they could better guide the sailors. But Marquis, who worked in personnel, worried there might be unintended consequences.

For example, the Fitzgerald sailor who told him she was having trouble being on a ship did as the senior sailor had pushed him to do and "sucked it up."

Marquis wondered if her career would suffer anyway. Would the next command reject her, deeming her damaged goods? Marquis worried it could end up being a red flag on sailors as they climbed the ranks.

Collins isn't sure anyone noticed the 0007 on his personnel file when he returned to full duty in April last year. He was assigned to the Field Medical Training Battalion at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. There he did intense training to be qualified to save Marines on the battlefield. The stressful scenarios, not unexpectedly, aggravated his PTSD. The Navy took months to transfer him out of that job back to Florida, he said.

Now, he's training to be an assistant in ophthalmology at a naval hospital.

"It's very, very low stress," Collins said. "It's just checking people's eyes, then turning over that patient to a doctor. That's pretty much my job."

ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power.



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NATION



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Marcus Morris steadies the boat as his neighbor, Chris Sharp, readies the trolling motor for another trip through their Pearl River-flooded neighborhood in Jackson, Miss., on Sunday.

Mississippi and Tennessee see more and more flooding

BY ROGELIO V. SOLIS
AND MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Days and days of heavy rain have created a dilemma for authorities managing dams along swollen rivers in Mississippi and Tennessee. The water has to be released eventually, worsening the flooding for people living downstream.

Dramatic video posted by a Tennessee fire department showed the impact: Two houses tumbled down a bluff over the Tennessee River, while many others have been swamped to their rooftops, as entire neighborhoods disappear in muddy water below the Tennessee Valley Authority's Pickwick Reservoir.

"It absolutely kills you, knowing that" houses are getting destroyed downstream from the dam, TVA spokesman Jim Hopson told The Associated Press on Monday. "We have engineers on duty 24/7 trying to figure out what's the most effective way

to move this water downstream with the least impact. They feel it. I feel it."

Mississippi's Pearl River, meanwhile, crested Monday at just under 37 feet, well short of its historic worst-case scenario, and should begin draining soon, Gov. Tate Reeves said Monday. He said that there were no reports of flood-related injuries, and thanked the people of Mississippi for heeding evacuation orders. Only 16 search-and-rescue missions were necessary, he said, even though as many as 1,000 homes were flooded.

"We as a state are not in the clear yet," Reeves said.

In one Jackson neighborhood, residents paddled canoes, kayaks and small fishing boats to check on their houses, giving lifts to other neighbors. Some were able to enter their homes, while others peeked into the windows to see what, if any damage, had been done inside. Floodwaters lapped at mailboxes, street signs and cars that had been left in driveways.

Assault weapons bill dies in Virginia Senate

BY LAURA VOZZELLA
The Washington Post

RICHMOND, Va. — A Virginia Senate committee killed a bill Monday that would have banned the sale of assault-style weapons and possession of high-capacity magazines, handing gun-rights activists a rare win in a Capitol that Democrats won last year on the promise of sweeping gun control.

Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, backed the legislation, part of a package of eight gun-control measures he advanced after a shooter killed 12 people at a Virginia Beach municipal building on May 31. Republicans' refusal to act on those bills last summer, in a special session that they gavelled out in 90 minutes, became a rallying cry for Democrats in the November elections. They flipped the state House and Senate blue for the first time in a generation.

The House has passed all eight of Northam's bills. But four Democrats — Sens. Creigh Deeds of Bath, John Edwards of Roanoke, Chap Petersen of Fairfax and Scott Surovell of Fairfax — sided with Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the assault weapons bill for the year. On a 10-5 vote, the committee sent the measure to the state's Crime Commission for study.

"Bunch of wimps," Sen. L. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, said from the dais, referring to the four.

Philip Van Clave, the Virginia Citizens Defense League president who organized a huge gun-rights rally in Richmond last month and encouraged "Second Amendment sanctuary" declarations across the state, celebrated on Twitter.

"VICTORY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Van Clave tweeted. "Everybody's

hard work, Lobby Day, and sanctuary movement paid off!"

Northam was "disappointed" with the vote but "fully expects the Crime Commission to give this measure the detailed review that Senators called for," spokeswoman Alena Yarmosky said. "We will be back next year."

House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, D-Fairfax — who had challenged the Senate to pass all eight bills in a speech over the weekend — reacted more sharply.

"The Democratic platform last fall was very clear," she said in a statement. "Limiting access to weapons of war used in mass murder was a key part of that platform. The House of Delegates delivered on our promise to take action to keep those weapons off our streets. To call today's vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee an understatement would be a disappointment."

Senators did not debate the merits of the bill before voting. Deeds simply noted that there were "a lot of questions" about the definition of assault weapon before moving to wait on the bill for the year. Democratic supporters tried to counter with a motion to hold out only for the day, but Deeds prevailed.

The bill was the most controversial part of Northam's gun-control agenda, with gun-rights activists warning that the state was planning to confiscate firearms. Since the election, more than 110 Virginia counties, cities and towns have passed some type of "Second Amendment sanctuary" resolution, many of them asserting that local officials will not enforce laws they consider unconstitutional. Gun rights activists staged an enormous rally on Capitol Square in January, drawing heavily armed militias

from across the country.

The House has approved the governor's other seven gun-control bills, which would:

- Enact universal background checks on private gun sales.
- Require an owner to report the loss or theft of a firearm within 14 hours.

- Make local governments the authority to ban weapons from public buildings and at certain events.

- Create a "red flag" law, or extreme risk protective order, under which authorities can temporarily seize firearms from someone deemed a threat to themselves or others.

- Limit handgun purchases to one per month, a policy that was in effect in Virginia until 2012.

- Tighten the law prohibiting access to firearms for someone subject to a protective order.

- Make it a felony to "recklessly" leave a firearm within reach of anyone age 18 or younger, up from the current age of 14, a measure known as "child access prevention."

The Senate, which had no assault weapons bill of its own, has passed five of the governor's bills. The Senate's bill on lost or stolen firearms was rejected in a floor vote, with Petersen and Sen. Lynwood Lewis Jr., D-Accomack, voting against it. Its version of the child-access prevention bill died in committee, with Petersen and Deeds joining Republicans in opposition.

"Despite today's vote, the Governor is proud of the several common-sense gun safety measures that continue to advance," Yarmosky said. "These bills represent historic steps forward in keeping Virginians safe from gun violence. Make no mistake — they will save lives."

US official: 44 Americans on Japan ship tested positive for coronavirus

BY ANNA FIFIELD
AND KATIE METTLER
The Washington Post

Fourteen Americans evacuated from the coronavirus-stricken Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan tested positive for the illness but were allowed to board two chartered planes bound for quarantine on United States military bases.

Their return almost doubles the number of confirmed cases, which previously stood at 15, of the new coronavirus in the U.S.

The 14 passengers tested positive for the virus after disembarking the cruise liner, which is moored off the Japanese port of Yokohama, but before boarding the planes. They were all as-

ymptomatic, so health authorities deemed them "fit to fly," the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement Monday.

They were cordoned off from the other passengers during the flight, it said.

"These individuals were moved in the most expeditious and safe manner to a specialized containment area on the evacuation aircraft to isolate them in accordance with standard protocols," the departments said.

A total of 328 Americans were evacuated on the two flights. All are due to go into quarantine for 14 days, the maximum incubation period for the virus, at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., or Lackland Air Force Base in San

Antonio.

Flight data showed that one flight had landed at Travis late Sunday night local time, and the other in San Antonio early Monday.

Another 44 Americans from the cruise ship had previously tested positive for coronavirus and had been taken to hospitals in Japan to recover.

Japan's Health Ministry on Monday reported 99 new cases of coronavirus among the passengers and crew of the Diamond Princess, increasing the total number of infections from the ship to 454. Of those, 18 are in serious condition, the Yomiuri newspaper reported.

Yoshiko Kita, a senior official in the Japanese Health Minis-

try, said that the government will have finished testing everyone on board the Diamond Princess by the end of the day on Monday.

The Australian government said that it would evacuate more than 200 of its citizens stranded onboard the Diamond Princess on a charter flight that will depart from Japan on Wednesday. They will have to spend two weeks in quarantine in the northern city of Darwin.

The Australian plane would also carry out the 11 New Zealanders stranded on the cruise ship, said New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and they would have to go into quarantine once home.

Another cruise liner, the Westerdam, owned by Holland America

Line, is at the center of a coronavirus-related investigation.

An 83-year-old American woman who disembarked from the ship at Sihanoukville on Friday took a charter flight to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, along with 145 other passengers. They had all passed health checks by Cambodian authorities and cleared to disembark and travel onward.

When the woman arrived in Kuala Lumpur, she reported not feeling well and tested positive for the virus. Malaysian authorities said that she is in stable condition.

Her traveling companion tested negative and none of the other passengers or crew members reported symptoms, the company said in the statement.

NATION

Dem candidates to be tested by minority voters

By BILL BARROW
AND TOM FOREMAN JR.
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — For I.S. Leevy Johnson, the Democrats' search for a challenger to take on President Donald Trump is personal.

"There is what I call an 'ABT mood' in the black community: Anybody but Trump," said the 77-year-old, who was the first black graduate of the University of South Carolina's law school. "It has people of color very motivated and excited about voting this time because they know how his administration has adversely affected them."

Now, as the election calendar turns to Nevada and South Carolina, states with substantial minority populations, that "anybody" moves closer to being identified. But the next stage in the nominating fight will test candidates such as Sens. Bernie Sanders of

Vermont and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, and Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind. Their success thus far has come in front of overwhelmingly white electorates in Iowa and New Hampshire.

It's also a potential last comeback opportunity for former Vice President Joe Biden. He finished poorly in those first two contests but argues he has durable support among the minority voters who will soon make their choices.

Nevada's caucuses are this coming Saturday and will feature a growing population of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Yet no single place in the early going is as important as South Carolina. Up to two-thirds of voters in the Feb. 29 primary could be African American. Biden, more than any other candidate, must show he can win their allegiance.

One candidate who will not be



JOHN LOCHER/AP

People wait in line at an early voting location at the culinary workers union hall Saturday in Las Vegas.

tested in Nevada or South Carolina is Mike Bloomberg, the former New York mayor and billionaire owner of a financial services and media empire. Bloomberg has spent heavily from his personal fortune in states with sizable minority populations that will vote in the March 3 primaries. The Super Tuesday contests are the first where his name will appear on the ballot.

It adds up to a muddled field that lacks clarity even after Iowa and New Hampshire had their turns. Moderates have splintered their votes and created space for

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, to take on the mantle of a front-runner without having reached 30% in either of the first two voting states.

That intensifies the spotlight as minority voters in Nevada and South Carolina in trying to clarify the party's search for "anybody" to match against Trump.

"The system is garbage," said Jason Johnson, a professor at Morgan State University and a high-profile African American political commentator. He argued that the primary calendar should immediately subject candidates

not just to racial and ethnic diversity but also regional and ideological differences, and the full city-to-farm spectrum. "I'm not sure this process actually can identify the strongest candidate to defeat Donald Trump," he said.

Biden and Sanders lead in endorsements from members of South Carolina's Legislative Black Caucus.

In Nevada, Biden has the backing of the state's lone black congressman, Steven Horsford, and Dina Titus, who represents the diverse Las Vegas-based district.

Topless protesters rush stage at Sanders event

By SHANT SHAHRIGIAN
New York Daily News

A group of protesters blew their tops — literally — as Sen. Bernie Sanders was campaigning in Carson City, Nev., on Sunday.

The Democratic presidential hopeful had just finished introducing his wife Jane O'Meara Sanders as "the next First Lady" when a woman walked up to the microphone and started rambling about subsidies for the dairy industry, video posted to social media showed.

"Bernie, I'm your biggest supporter and I'm here to ask you to stop propping up the dairy indus-

try and to stop propping up animal agriculture. I believe in you," she exclaimed before the sound was cut.

Two topless kindred spirits hopped onstage to join her. They poured milk on themselves and preened around the podium for just a few moments before security took the protesters away.

The crowd shouted "Bernie!" while some members screamed obscenities at the women.

The presidential candidate seemed to take the interruption in stride, quipping, "This is Nevada, there's always a little bit of excitement at no extra cost."

Mayor Bill de Blasio, who had



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders I-Vt., pauses during his campaign event in Carson City, Nev., on Sunday.

introduced Sanders minutes earlier, appeared to be confused by the incident.

De Blasio endorsed Sanders last week, following the Vermont senator's strong showings

in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries.

Battling a sore throat, de Blasio preached, "There's only one candidate, brothers and sisters. I feel this in my heart."

Two bodies recovered in Colorado avalanche

Associated Press

VAIL, Colo. — Searchers have recovered the bodies of two Colorado men who died after being caught in a weekend avalanche in central Colorado, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center reported Sunday.

Three men were riding snowbikes Saturday afternoon when they were caught in the slide about 10 miles north of Vail. One man was able to dig himself out and called for help at about 4:45 p.m., the Eagle County Sheriff's Office said.

The other men were carried into a gully at the bottom of a drainage area, avalanche debris piled up deeply and they were fully buried, the Avalanche Information Center said in a statement.

The bodies were recovered on Sunday, the avalanche center said. The Eagle County Sheriff's Office identified the victims as Dillon Block, 28, and Cesar Almanza-Hernandez, 30, both of Gypsum.

Four people have died in avalanches in Colorado this winter, the center said.

Museum's Rembrandt knockoff turns out to be real

Associated Press

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Thanks to modern technology and some expert detective work, a nearly 400-year-old painting that had long been attributed to an unknown artist in Rembrandt's workshop has now been judged to have been a work of the Dutch master himself.

For decades, the Allentown Art Museum displayed an oil-on-oak panel painting called "Portrait of a Young Woman" and credited it

to "Studio of Rembrandt." Two years ago, the painting was sent to New York University for conservation and cleaning.

There, conservators began removing layers of overpainting and dark, thick varnish that had been added over centuries — and they began to suspect Rembrandt himself was responsible for the original, delicate brushwork underneath.

"Our painting had numerous layers of varnish and that really

obscured what you could see of the original brushwork, as well as the original color," said Elaine Mehalakes, vice president of curatorial affairs at the Allentown Art Museum.

Conservators used a variety of tools, including X-ray, infrared and electron microscopy, to bolster the case that it was the work of one of the most important and revered artists in history.

The scientific analysis "showed brushwork, and a liveliness to that

brushwork, that is quite consistent with other works by Rembrandt," said Shan Kuang, a conservator at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts who restored "Portrait of a Young Woman."

Outside experts who examined the 1632 painting after the completion of its restoration concurred with the NYU assessment that it's an authentic Rembrandt. The painting, currently in the museum's vault, will go on public display starting June 7.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sisters give birth same day at same hospital

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Two inseparable sisters found themselves upping their togetherness game by giving birth on the same day — at the same hospital. Sisters Charrell and Cierra Anthony gave birth last week at Indianapolis' Community Hospital East. Charrell Anthony's son, Terry Valentino, was born at 12:40 a.m., and Cierra Anthony's daughter, Dream Monique, came into the world at 6:29 p.m., the Indianapolis Star reported. The babies were due weeks apart, but they evidently had other plans.

Mating snakes prompt partial closure of park

FL LAKELAND — A Florida city shut down a section of a lake after receiving reports of swarming snakes. The Lakeland Parks & Recreation department wrote on its Facebook page that a group of non-venomous water snakes congregated to mate near a traffic roundabout. It included one photo of the lake shoreline and a closeup shot of a brown snake nestled in leaves.

Officials said that the snakes are "generally not aggressive as long as people do not disturb them."

New Lincoln sculpture planned at museum

IL SPRINGFIELD — A new sculpture honoring the 16th U.S. president is coming to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

Museum officials announced plans for the "Beacon of Endurance" piece, designed by B.J. Krivanek. He described the sculpture in a statement as standing 24 feet, 10 inches tall.

Rendings of the piece show an obelisk with a base inscribed with quotes from Lincoln and a stainless-steel upper inscribed with words describing him. Members of an advisory panel will weigh in on which words to include, and the museum also plans to take ideas from the public through social media.

Arrest made in break-in at military museum

CT MIDDLETOWN — Police arrested a man they said used an ax to break into a Connecticut military museum. Middletown police announced that Isaiah Nemecek, 22, faces third-degree burglary, sixth-degree larceny and other charges in connection with a break-in at the Greater Middletown Military Museum.

Surveillance video posted on Facebook shows a hooded and masked person swinging the ax several times at a rear door lock mechanism to break into the museum.

Museum officials said the suspect took a replica .45 caliber automatic pistol from a Vietnam War display. Police said an item from the museum was recovered.



GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Raging bull

Two bullfighters race to jump the gate as a bull closes in during last weekend's Bull Bash and Bands rodeo in Owensboro, Ky.

Deputies confront black man wearing KKK robe

VA STAFFORD COUNTY HOUSE — A black man seen wearing a Ku Klux Klan robe and hood at a Virginia shopping center told sheriff's deputies that he was performing a social experiment, according to authorities.

The Stafford County Sheriff's Office was called to a Target store at the Stafford Marketplace to investigate reports of someone wearing the costume. Maj. Shawn Kimmitt said in a video statement posted to social media.

Deputies warned him about wearing a mask in public and he left the scene, Kimmitt said. Virginia law prohibits wearing masks with the intent to conceal identity in public.

Four men accused in \$69K jewelry heist

LA HAMMOND — Four Texas men are accused of smashing display cases with a sledgehammer and stealing \$69,000 worth of jewelry from a Louisiana store, and Texas police are reportedly investigating similar heists.

Lacy Landrum, the city's director of administration, said that three men in hoodies smashed cases at the Kay Jewelers store in Hammond and drove off in a white Toyota Avalon with Texas plates. A bystander photographed the car as it sped off, and Baton Rouge police stopped it on Interstate 12, arresting four men, Landrum wrote in a news release.

THE CENSUS

300

which some people like to eat. The state last allowed sandhill crane hunting in 1916 after hunting nearly wiped out the species. A hunting ban allowed the bird's populations to recover enough for a new season.

The approximate number of sandhill cranes that were killed during Alabama's first hunting season for the birds in over a century, the state conservation agency said. A news release from the agency said that about 400 people bought permits to hunt the large birds,

Ellis Gholson, 43, Kameron McCoy, 21, and Travon Walker, 29, all of Houston, and Frederick Gibson Jr., 22, of Fresno, Texas, face armed robbery charges in Hammond, and Houston police are among those investigating similar robberies, she said.

Business to pay \$100K in case of fake trips

ID BOISE — Business owners in Idaho reached a settlement agreement after they were accused of selling fake fishing trips in Alaska and leaving people stranded, a newspaper reported.

Access Life's Adventures and its owners, Craig and Crystal Fletcher, agreed to pay more than \$100,000 in refunds to 25 customers, the Idaho Statesman reported.

They have also agreed not to advertise or sell vacation packages, travel or vacation-related goods or services from within Idaho or to customers in the state for 10 years. The Fletchers have said that they did not violate any regulations and agreed to the settlement to resolve the complaints. The couple must repay the

funds within the 10 years or the ban becomes indefinite, the settlement said.

Former teacher pleads guilty to dragging student

KY GREENUP — A former Kentucky teacher seen on video dragging an elementary school student pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge.

The plea agreement calls for Trina Abrams to serve 120 days of home confinement as part of a two-year probation sentence, The Daily Independent reported.

Abrams was a teacher at Wurtland Elementary in Greenup in October 2018 when school video showed her dragging the boy by his wrists through the halls.

The boy's mother, Angel Nelson, told news outlets at the time that her son's wrists were sprained. She said that her son has limited speech and has been diagnosed with autism and other disorders.

Police: Man attacked two girls with machete

FL LAUDERHILL — A South Florida man faces two counts of attempted murder

after attacking his daughters — ages 10 and 17 — with a machete.

The 47-year-old man also tried to attack the girls' mother, but she was not injured, Lauderdale police Lt. Mike Santiago told news outlets.

The girls were taken to a hospital with wounds on their upper bodies.

The younger girl is the man's daughter, while the teen is the daughter of the man's estranged wife, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported.

Man admits to removing slave auction marker

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA — Police in Virginia arrested a man who admitted to taking a historic marker memorializing the site of slave auctions in the city where a deadly white nationalist rally was held in 2017.

Richard H. Allan III, 74, was arrested by Charlottesville police, news outlets reported citing a press release from the city.

Allan told multiple news outlets that he removed the plaque because he believed it was insulting to enslaved Africans and their descendants. The marker was built into a sidewalk in Charlottesville's Court Square.

Allan told The Washington Post that he removed the historic marker with a crowbar and threw the plaque into the James River. He declined to tell police where the marker could be found, Charlottesville Police Chief Rashad Brackney said.

From wire reports

FACES

A present from the past

‘The Photograph’ revives the black romantic drama through a lens of inherited experiences

By SONAIYA KELLEY
Los Angeles Times

The '90s and early aughts were a golden era for black cinema, in particular the black romantic drama.

With the release of films like “Brown Sugar” (2002), “How Stella Got Her Groove Back” (1998), “Deliver Us From Eva” (2003), “Two Can Play That Game” (2001) and “The Best Man” (1999), representation for varying shades of black love was at an all-time high.

Genre classics like “Love Jones” (1997) and “Love & Basketball” (2000) left an indelible mark on black filmmakers, the echoes of which can be seen on-screen today.

Writer-director Stella Meghie offers her own entry into the genre with “The Photograph,” starring Issa Rae and Lakeith Stanfield, and currently in theaters. “Love & Basketball” — a Sanaa Lathan and Omar Epps sports romance — presented a rare opportunity for Meghie to see her own experience reflected in a major studio release.

“Before I knew I wanted to direct, I was just so connected to that film,” said Meghie. Director Gina Prince-Bythewood “saw me.” Ball was life for me growing up and I was fighting that feeling of being a tomboy. I remember the year in high school when I decided to wear a skirt, so I just related to Sanaa’s character so much.”

“I’ve always said ‘Love & Basketball’ influenced me wanting to be a writer and a filmmaker,” said Rae. “There’s something about watching people fall in love that feels magical, maybe because I think I’ve been more cynical in real life. To learn love from movies is problematic, but also wistful. It’s wish fulfillment.”

In “The Photograph,” Rae plays a museum curator named Mae who finds herself grappling with the recent loss of her eldest and estranged brother. Stanfield costars as Michael, a journalist who inadvertently

helps Mae connect the dots of her past, falling in love with her in the process.

The multigenerational story (Chante Adams plays Mae’s young mother alongside Y’lan Noel as her first love) was intended to be a meditation on black love and the barriers to it that people inherit and create themselves.

“For me, the message about love in this film is that there’s a history to it,” said Meghie. “That your ability to love comes from what you’ve learned about love, how your parents loved and how these relationships between mothers and daughters affect your emotional intelligence.”

“I always thought about it in terms of DNA,” said Stanfield. “And how generations pass on information unwillingly to their offspring, and the trauma lives in the blood and the experience.”

And the black experience is rife with trauma. The legacy of slavery still affects African Americans to this day, coloring everything from position in society to how black men and women interact with each other.

“I think it impacts everything,” said Meghie. “Going through slavery and having families ripped apart affects your ability to trust. You don’t get rid of that kind of trauma. It doesn’t feel as traumatic and painful as it did (then), but it’s the remnants of it that affect how you are able to decide to stay with somebody and if you even can.”

“If your parents divorce, that’s going to affect how you feel about love. If you’re walking around with your baggage and not talking about it, or going to therapy, you might pretend it’s not affecting you, but it absolutely is.”

While developing the story with Universal and Will Packer Productions, Meghie drew narrative inspiration from her own life after witnessing her grandmother reunite with a daughter she hadn’t seen in nearly 40 years.

“My grandmother had given her up when she was really young,” said the director. “And it



Universal

Issa Rae and Lakeith Stanfield star in “The Photograph,” a throwback to an era of abundant black romantic dramas.

had been almost 40 years since they had (last) seen each other or spoken. She was going through all these emotions of regret and excitement, shame and fear. And it was just so interesting to me because my grandmother was all of a sudden a young woman again confronting her past. I had never seen her like that before.”

“I was like, imagine having all this time pass and every day thinking about this person but not talking to them,” she added.

“I ended up coming back to this idea of a burgeoning couple spending this Hurricane Sandy evening together and how that could pull them together or break them apart.”

Despite a push for greater diversity across the board, the black romantic drama — indeed, romances of all kinds — have waned in the past decade as studios have rushed to capitalize on the popularity of big-budget superhero movies. As Hollywood trends tipped toward big-budget spectacles and midrange horror fare, black romance movies and rom-coms have fallen by the wayside.

“I don’t know why, (but) I think it’s easier to market (straight) comedies,” said Meghie. “It’s just easier to sell them and easier to make them successful.

Romantic dramas are complex and subtle and nuanced, and that can be hard to get across in two hours.”

That nuance and reliance on character development and story progression are why the director takes personal offense when romance and romantic movies are written off as being cheesy or cloying.

“I’ll see tweets that talk about romance like it’s a guilty pleasure or that it’s corny,” said Meghie. “This girl the other day was like, ‘Oh, I love a mushy film.’ And to me, that was like a bad word. People base their whole lives on family and marriage, so the idea that romance and romantic dramas are not serious ... these are emotions that we’re trying to get through to be happy, functional human beings, to procreate, and that is important.”

“When I see people talking about romantic dramas or the genre like it’s not worthy of being taken seriously, that’s just sexism to me. That’s just talking down to the female audience and not valuing them. That’s men refusing to be in touch with their emotions and face why the hell they can’t stay in a relationship. I’m always so annoyed by that.”



‘Sonic’ off to quick start at box office

Associated Press

The redesigned “Sonic the Hedgehog” showed plenty of teeth at the box office, speeding to a \$57 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday, while “Parasite” saw one of the largest post-Oscars bumps in years following its best picture win.

“Sonic the Hedgehog” came in well above expectations, becoming the highest-grossing opening for a video game adaptation, not accounting for inflation. The \$87 million production co-stars Jim Carrey as Dr. Robotnik with Ben Schwartz supplying Sonic’s voice.

Bong Joon Ho’s “Parasite” had its biggest weekend in its 19th week of release with \$5.5 million.

“Birds of Prey” slid to second place in its second week with \$17.1 million.

“F9: The Fast Saga,” the Blumhouse horror remake of the 70s TV show, took in \$12.4 million in its debut despite terrible reviews.

“The Photograph,” a romance starring Issa Rae and Lakeith Stanfield, opened with \$12.2 million.

Elton John battling pneumonia on tour

Elton John intends to play his remaining shows in New Zealand and Australia after illness caused the singer to lose his voice and cut short a performance.

Elton John intends to play his remaining shows in New Zealand and Australia, his tour promoters said Monday.

Video clips posted online by fans at Sunday night’s performance showed John, 72, breaking down in tears as he told the cheering crowd he had warning pneumonia and couldn’t go on any longer.

Tour promoters said John was resting and doctors were confident he would recover. They said a concert planned for Tuesday in Auckland would be delayed until Wednesday.

Other news

■ An unidentified woman who says she was raped by late R&B singer Rick James in 1979 when she was 15 years old is suing his estate for \$50 million. The lawsuit was filed on Feb. 13 under the Child Victims Act, which opened a one-year litigation window for victims who were once blocked by the statute of limitations.

■ Carol Ann Plack, a British television presenter who hosted the reality TV show “Love Island,” has died at age 40, her family said Feb. 15. A family lawyer said Plack had killed herself and was found in her London apartment. Plack hosted “Love Island” from its launch in 2015, but stepped down last year after being charged with assaulting her boyfriend. She denied the charge and was scheduled to stand trial starting next month.

■ Lynn Cohen, an actress best known for playing the plain-spoken housekeeper and nanny Magda in “Sex and the City,” died Feb. 14. She was 86.

“People base their whole lives on family and marriage, so the idea that romance and romantic dramas are not serious ... these are emotions that we’re trying to get through to be happy, functional human beings.”

Stella Meghie
writer-director of “The Photograph”

Disgraced religious order faces new scrutiny

Benedict gave De Paolis broad powers to rebuild the Legion from the ground up and said that it

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WORLD

'Severe' flood warnings in Britain as rivers keep rising

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain issued severe flood warnings Monday, advising of life-threatening danger after Storm Dennis dumped weeks' worth of rain in some places. One woman swept away by the floodwaters was feared dead.

To the east, Dennis' gale force winds also left nine people injured in Germany as their vehicles crashed into broken trees littering roads and train tracks. Flooding and power outages were reported elsewhere in northern Europe.

By late afternoon Monday, Britain issued six severe flood warnings in the central English counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The Environment Agency also said 205 flood warnings were in place, meaning that flooding was expected and 254 alerts, meaning flooding was

possible. Some 480 flood warnings and alerts were issued across England on Monday, the highest on record, the agency said.

Yet the storm's death toll of two looked certain to rise as West Mercia Police said the search for the woman, missing near Tenbury in Worcestershire since Sunday, had become a "recovery operation." A man pulled from the water in the same incident was airlifted to a hospital, where he remains in stable condition, police said.

The weather system brought winds of more than 90 mph and up to 6 inches of rain to Britain over the weekend. And the tumult is not over.

"We expect disruptive weather into the middle of this week bringing a significant flood risk for the West Midlands, and there are flood warnings in place across much of England," said Toby Wil-



JACOB KING, PA MEDIA/AP

Vehicles are seen submerged in floodwater from the River Teme near Lindridge, England, on Monday.

lison, executive director of operations across Britain's Environment Agency.

A commuter train with 67 passengers also crashed into a fallen tree in the western German city of Dortmund, but nobody was injured. And in Hamburg, the city's famous fish market was flooded for the second time this month.

Further north, strong winds and heavy rains caused flooding,

road closures and electricity outages across the Nordic and Baltic regions and forced the cancellation of several ferries between Denmark and Norway.

In Denmark, the southwestern city of Kolding was flooded amid gale force winds and heavy rains. In southwestern Norway, more than half a dozen roads and several mountain passes were closed amid heavy snow and winds.

Formal terror charges filed in attack on Oslo mosque

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A Norwegian man suspected of killing his stepister and then storming an Oslo mosque with firearms "with the intention to kill as many Muslims as possible" was formally charged Monday with murder and terror.

Philip Manshaus was overpowered inside the Al-Noor Islamic Center mosque in August. He fired six shots but didn't hit anyone. One person was slightly injured when they jumped on Manshaus inside the mosque and held him until police arrived.

The prosecution says Manshaus, 22, is suspected of killing his 17-year-old stepister, Johanne Zhangjia Ihle-Hansen, by shooting her four times with a hunting rifle at their home in the Oslo suburb of Baerum.

Shortly after, Manshaus drove to a nearby mosque. He wore a helmet with a video camera attached and a bulletproof vest, according to the charge sheet obtained by The Associated Press.

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OPINION

It's clear how Trump steers ship of state

By GEORGE T. CONWAY III
Special to The Washington Post

When the subject of Attorney General William Barr comes up these days, it's hard not to think of John McCain. Not the late senator, mind you, but the USS John S. McCain, the naval destroyer named after his father and grandfather.

It was an incident involving this ship that, as much as anything else, captures how the Trump administration — and its attorney general — operates. It explains Barr's intervention into the criminal sentencing of Trump's longtime friend and adviser, felon Roger Stone, and much, much more.

The McCain was docked at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, in May 2019, when the 7th Fleet issued a directive that had originated from conversations with the White House Military Office. The president was coming to Yokosuka for a Memorial Day, and so, accordingly, "USS John McCain needs to be of sight." So sailors were ordered to hang a tarp over the vessel's name, and they removed any coverings that bore the words "John S. McCain."

President Donald Trump didn't need to say a word. It just happened. He didn't even know, he later said. But he was hardly displeased. "I was not a big fan of John McCain in any shape or form," Trump said. "Now, somebody did it because they thought I didn't like him, OK? And they were well-meaning."

Anticipating Trump's narcissistic whims and desires in just his fashion remains the key to survival in his administration, and outside the White House proper, no one does it better than Barr. It's thus entirely believable, as both Barr and Trump have said, that Trump never gave Barr any instruction about Stone's case.

But no one could doubt, least of all Barr,

what Trump's reaction would be to line prosecutors' recommendation of a seven- to nine-year sentence for Stone. When Stone was convicted in November on seven counts of witness tampering and lying to Congress, the president of the United States tweeted, "Well, what about Crooked Hillary, Comey, Stroz, Page, McCabe, Brennan, Clapper, Schiff, and Kelly & Nellie, Steele & all of the others, including even Mueller himself? Didn't they lie?"

So when it came to Stone's sentence, Barr likely knew what to do, without being told. And he has known what to do, whenever feasible, to keep Trump happy all along. Even before he became attorney general, he was singing a tune that must have been music to Trump's ears: He sent an unsolicited memo to the Justice Department arguing (wrongly) that Trump was legally incapable of obstructing the Mueller investigation. Later, when he received Mueller's final report, Barr misled the public about it, facilitating Trump's repeated but false mantra that the report exonerated the president. Since then, Barr has supervised a re-investigation of the Russia investigation, seemingly trying to substantiate his boss' conspiracy theories about the original probe's origins. And now we have his latest effort, in favor of Stone, which he duly earned him the president's praise, and his reported review of politically sensitive (meaning, sensitive to Trump) criminal cases, such as the one against former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The most important thing Trump did for Barr, though, involved the arms-for-Darfur-Bidar-Uganda scandal — which should have prompted a full-blown criminal investigation with a special counsel. Any U.S. attorney's office would fall over itself to investigate, for example, a state governor who, while running for reelection against a former mayor, so much as hinted

that the mayor's successor that, say, highway funds would be restricted unless the current mayor were to announce an inquiry into her predecessor's alleged corruption.

But instead of investigating the Ukraine shakedown, Barr's Justice Department immediately gave the president a clean bill of health. Saving Trump from that criminal investigation was more than what Roy Cohn ever did for any of his clients.

So when Barr announced that "I think it's time to stop tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases," and that the president's statements "make it impossible for me to do my job and to assure the courts and the prosecutors and the department that we're doing our work with integrity" — he wasn't actually standing up for the Justice Department's integrity, or its independence, or for the rule of law.

To the contrary, as (his and my) friend Fox News host Laura Ingraham put it, Barr was basically telling Trump, don't worry (or get upset), because you know what this is: We're doing our work with integrity" — he wasn't actually standing up for the Justice Department's integrity, or its independence, or for the rule of law.

For the president will never listen, and what Barr does for him will never be enough. Now having been acquitted by the Senate, Trump thinks he's bulletproof, legally and otherwise. He now brags, as he tweeted last Saturday, that he is "the King" who was targeted but not taken down.

And, drawing on a New York Times story that suggested he is stained but unshackled, Trump boasted that he has survived "triumphant" and "emboldened" and "focused" on prosecuting "his case of grievance" — Saturday, that he is "the King" who was targeted but not taken down.

So Trump wants to say the quiet part out loud; he wants to say he's got this. And there's no one to stop him.

George T. Conway III is a lawyer in New York and an adviser to the Lincoln Project, an anti-Trump super PAC.

Voters deserve better info on candidates' health

By JOHN SOTOS
Special to The Washington Post

Coming off victories in Iowa and New Hampshire, Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-Vt., is increasingly described as the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Inevitably, questions will arise about the health of the 78-year-old senator as well as that of the 73-year-old incumbent, President Donald Trump.

But the public reports on the two men's recent health-related episodes, written by their primary-care military physicians, do not serve voters well. The fault, however, is not with the physicians but with the absence of explicit standards for disclosing health records of presidents and presidential candidates — a rectifiable distortion.

Both medical reports omit critically pertinent prognostic data that the physicians certainly know. Sanders had a heart attack in October, but his report is silent about the extent of disease in his coronary arteries, which is the most important factor in determining his short- and long-term heart health. The report on Trump's abrupt, unscheduled visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Md., in November listed several key cardiovascular symptoms the president did not have, but failed to say whether he was free from the sensations of chest tightness, shortness of breath and that patients classically experience during heart attack and its precursors.

Voters need and deserve health information from candidates because a vote is fundamentally a bet on the future, reflecting the voter's estimate of the candidate's ability to lead the nation toward the voter's desired endpoint. As Woodrow Wilson's

stroke-shattered presidency proves, sickness sidelines effectiveness. Prognostic medical information, unlike knowledge of tax returns or scandals, is directly relevant because illness physically impedes exercise of the office.

Formulating standards on which medical data to disclose vs. which will remain private should be based on the duties of the presidency as enumerated in the Constitution. These duties are surprisingly few, and demand just four essential physical functions from a president: receiving information via sight and/or hearing, processing information in the brain, communicating decisions intelligently, and staying alive. Medical conditions that might significantly impair these functions over the next four years should be disclosed to voters. All others are no business of the public.

The rub is defining "significantly." Fortunately, military medicine has long experience doing exactly this, by defining medical conditions that disqualify a pilot, parachutist, cook etc. Among these, in my experience, the mental and physical demands on air traffic controllers most closely track the four essential "presidential" functions. The Air Force lists hundreds of medical conditions that disqualify air traffic controllers by threatening the four functions, including heart attack, psychosis and non-trivial cancers. Subtracted from this list the musculoskeletal requirements of general military service (the campaign trail's rigors can substitute as a stamina test), and the remaining conditions well describe the medical threats to the exercise of the presidency. Military physicians work with such lists daily.

Thus, as a first cut, I would propose a

policy (better, a law) requiring presidential and vice presidential candidates to publicly disclose complete information on every non-musculoskeletal medical condition they have that would disqualify them from being an air traffic controller in the Air Force. Defining "complete" is another story, but here, too, military precedents help. Air Force procedure to reinstate a medically disqualified air traffic controller includes reviewing an extract of the service member's medical record. Again, for hundreds of different conditions, the Air Force specifies exactly which data elements must be included in the extract. The report on Sanders was incomplete by Air Force standards because appeals for reinstatement after a heart attack must include a full description of coronary artery anatomy.

Presidential physicians, especially, should welcome explicit standards that are insulated from political pressure. Currently, each public medical disclosure about a president results from a doubtlessly fraught negotiation between patient and physician, potentially exposing the physician to charges of conspiring in coverups. With explicit standards the country would know exactly what the physician means by "fit for duty," thereby avoiding adversarial speculations such as those surrounding Trump's visit to Walter Reed.

It is important to emphasize that any medical standard for the presidency would only be a standard for disclosure. In no case would the standard bar someone from holding office because of a medical condition. That would be up to the voters, as it has been every four years since 1788.

John Sotos is a cardiologist and a colonel in the California Air National Guard, where he is state air surgeon. The views expressed are solely his own.

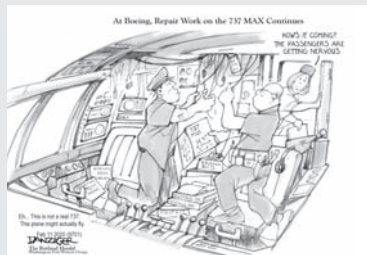
Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



THE ONLY ONES THAT HARVEY WEINSTEIN SHOULD WALK OUT OF COURT WITH.

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service



At Boeing, Repair Work on the 737 MAX Continues

ROADS IT COMING? THE PASSENGERS ARE GETTING NERVOUS.

JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service

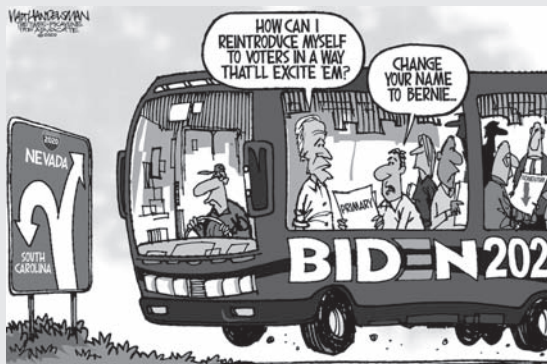
Before He Says Anything Else, Mr. Barr Is Put Back in the Barrel



Feb 14 2020 (9794)

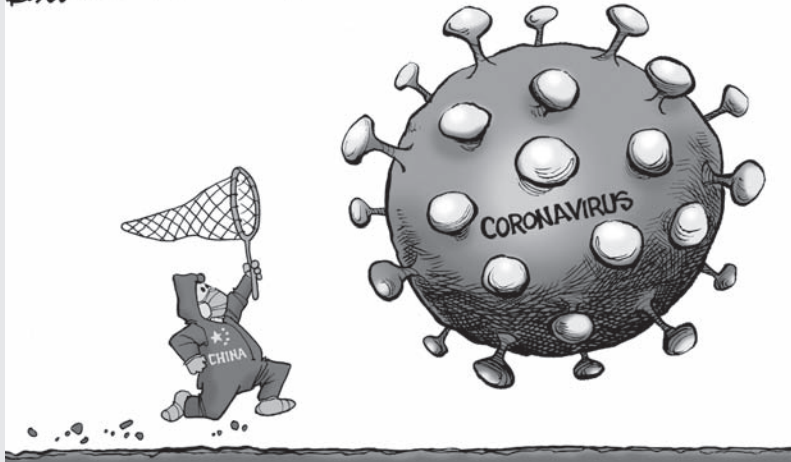
DANZIGER
The Realist Herald
Washington Post Writers Group

JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service



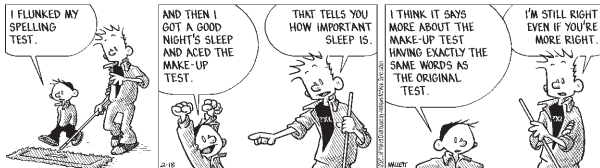
WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Content Agency

Lisa Benson 2020-11-11 Drawn by Washington Post Writers Group



LISA BENSON/Washington Post Writers Group

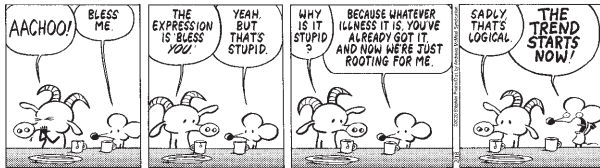
Frazz



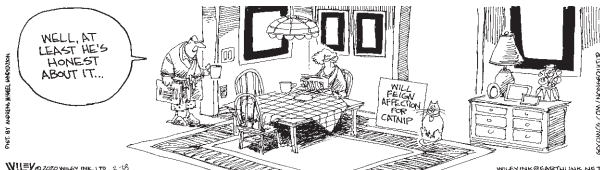
Dilbert



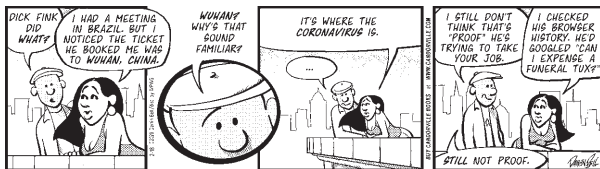
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



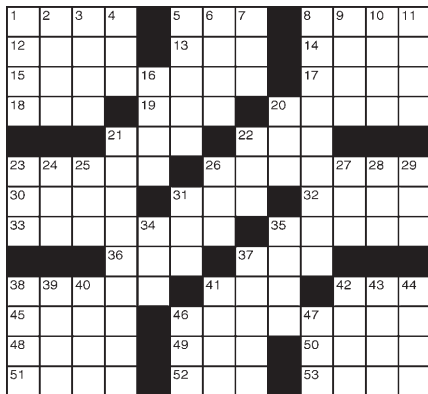
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



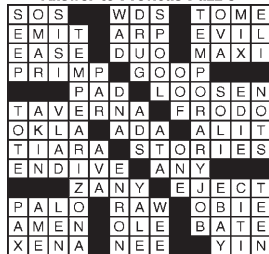
ACROSS

- 1 Eric of "Troy"
- 5 Dance club VIPs
- 8 Prima donna
- 12 Exploits
- 13 Boring routine
- 14 Stretches (out)
- 15 Capital of Virginia
- 17 Beholds
- 18 Tibetan beast
- 19 Fine, to NASA
- 20 Brainy
- 21 Zero
- 22 Life story
- 23 Major exam
- 24 Brest planet
- 30 God of war
- 31 Joke
- 32 Handle
- 33 Soaking spot
- 35 Judean king
- 36 Cistern
- 37 "— Kapital"
- 38 Deserve
- 41 Actor Gibson
- 42 Indent key
- 45 First victim
- 46 Capital of Hawaii
- 48 Actor Julia
- 49 Env. insert
- 50 Sleeping
- 51 ilk
- 52 Fan's cry
- 53 Campaign-funding gps.

DOWN

- 1 Conceal, in a way
- 2 China setting
- 3 Bottle part
- 4 Bonfire residue
- 5 Slobber
- 6 Rubbish
- 7 Norm (Abbr.)
- 8 Capital of Iowa
- 9 Furniture brand
- 10 Swerve
- 11 Admin. aide
- 16 Postal delivery
- 20 Small taste
- 21 Capital of Tennessee
- 22 Glitch
- 23 "Terrific"
- 24 Nest egg acronym
- 25 Bottom line
- 26 Poke
- 27 Sailor
- 28 Punk-rock subgenre
- 29 Roulette bet
- 31 Belly
- 34 Body art, for short
- 35 Saintry ring
- 37 "Skyfall" actress Judi
- 38 Shopping center
- 39 Online auction site
- 40 Enlist again
- 41 "— Lisa"
- 42 Hefty horn
- 43 Mr. Guinness
- 44 Chums
- 46 That girl
- 47 Napkin's place

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-18

CRYPTOQUIP

V C R S N V R I R Z Y M E E Z V P I
N S G M O Z S Z X M E S T Z X H M E Z,
E X M H S T U O I U N S E Z
R M Y Z I V P U Q U V G M V P E I P Z I
C M Q.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOVIE THAT CONCERNS A PAIR OF FELLOWS WHO DELIVER PIZZAS ON THEIR MOTORCYCLES: "CHEESY RIDER."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals F

SCOREBOARD

Sports

Go to the American Forces
Up-to-date website for the most
up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
Atlanta Braves
NEW YORK YANKEES — Signed RHP Chad Bettis to a minor league contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Brent Suter on a two-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Traded LHP Tyler Gilbert to the L.A. Dodgers for OF Kyle Kubitza. Designated OF Nick Martin for assignment.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Traded D Andy Greene to the N.Y. Islanders for D Dave Quenneville and a 2021 second-round draft pick.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Returned F Steven Savary and D Eric Knodel and defenseman from Lehigh Valley (AHL) to Reading (ECHL).

Tennis

WTA Dubai

Monday
At Aviation Club Tennis Center
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Prize: \$245,640
Surface: Hardwood court
(seedings in parentheses):

Women's Singles
Qualification
Veronika Kudermetova (5), Russia, def. Alexandra Mattek-Sands, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Kristina Mladenovic (4), France, def. Petra Kvitová (7), Slovenia, 6-3, 6-2.
Alyaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Ana Bogdan, Romania, 4-6, 7-6.
Hsieh Su-wei (6), Taiwan, 6-2, 6-2.
Jana Cirstea, Romania, 6-3, 6-2.
Carla Suarez Navarro (1), Spain, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4.
Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, def. Alison Van Uytendaele (8), Belgium, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5.

Women's Singles
Round of 32
Elise Mertens, Belgium, def. Wang Qiang, China, 5-3, 6-0.
Barbara Strýčková, Czech Republic, def. Amanda Anisimova, United States, 6-3, 7-6.
Oňa Jabour, Tunisia, vs. Alison Riske, United States, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-2.

Women's Doubles
Round of 32
Duan Ying-Ying, China, and Veronika Kudermetova (7), Russia, def. Viktorija Golubic and Li Tscheng-shan, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.
Lyudmyla Kichenok and Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, def. Aleksandra Kuznetsov and Darja Jurak, Croatia, 4-6, 6-2, 10-4.
Veronika Mattek-Sands and Sofia Kenin, United States, def. Monique Decker, Australia, and Yana Sizikova, Romania, 6-0, 6-7, 5.

Zhaoxuan Yang, China, and Makoto Ninomiya, Japan, vs. Julia Goepfert, Germany, and Simona Halep, Romania, 6-2, 6-1.

Pro football

NFL

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
DC	2	0	1	1.000	58	39
NYG	1	0	1	1.000	58	39
New York	1	0	1	1.000	58	39
Tampa Bay	1	0	1	1.000	58	39

Western Conference

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	0	1	1.000	58	39
Dallas	1	0	1	1.000	58	39
Los Angeles	1	0	1	1.000	58	39

Saturday's games
DC at New York, 8
Seattle, 7 Tampa Bay, 9
Houston, 10 Los Angeles, 18
Dallas, 25 Los Angeles, 18
Los Angeles, 10 Seattle, 24

Sunday, Feb. 23
Houston at Tampa Bay, 1
Seattle at Seattle, 1
New York, 9 Tampa Bay, 13
DC at Los Angeles, 1
Los Angeles at New York, 9
Seattle at Dallas, 1
Houston at Dallas, 1
DC at Tampa Bay, 1

College basketball

Sunday's men's scores

EAST
Albany (NY) 66, Maine 60
Boston College 71, NC State 68
Duquesne 96, Maryland 79
Daemen 59, Fordham 54
Emory 53, Brandeis 65
Marquette and Marshall 70, Muhlenberg 67
76, Marist 70
Loyola (Md.) 84, Colgate 80
Purdue 77, Monmouth (NJ) 72
93, Quinnipiac 61
Rochester 72, City College (NY) 64
Siena 65, Manhattanville 64
St. Peter's 61, Fairfield 44
Thomas Aquinas 68, Roberts Wesleyan 71
UConn 64, Memphis 61
Villanova 76, Temple 56
Wesleyan 69, Carnegie Mellon 68
Wesleyan (Conn.) 68, Bowdoin 59

SOUTH
Cincinnati 70, South Carolina 67, OT
Huntington 87, Pfeiffer 73
Kentucky 73, N. Kentucky 43
William Peace 68, Lagrange 68

MIDWEST
Chicago 80, Case Western 61
Drake 85, Evansville 80
Missouri 81, Indiana 58
Michigan 89, Indiana 65
Omaha 85, Denver 62
S. Dakota St., Fort Wayne 44
Wichita St., Tulsa 68
Wright St. 106, IUPUI 66

WEST
Arizona 106, California 75
Oregon 80, Utah 76
Oregon St., Boise St. 55
UC Irvine 70, Hawaii 63

Sunday's women's scores

EAST
Boston College 63, North Carolina 75
Drexel 52, Delaware 22
Marist 78, Siena 55
Maryland 106, Penn St. 69
Providence 54, St. John's 53
Maryland 69, St. Bonaventure 67
Rutgers 62, Michigan 41
Villanova 71, Pittsburgh 53
Cincinnati 69, Col. of Charleston 72
Syracuse 48, Georgetown 40

SOUTH
Arkansas 108, Mississippi 64
Louisiana 69, LSU 60
Davidson 79, Duquesne 76
Clemson 76, Fordham 46
Richmond 47, Georgia Tech 65
Georgia Tech 65, NC State 51
James Madison 76, UNC-Wilmington 52

Kentucky 73, Mississippi St. 62
Louisville 82, Notre Dame 68
North Carolina 69, Duke 68
Northwestern 69, Elon 45
Tennessee 73, Tennessee Tech 64
UConn 67, South Florida 47
UConn 67, Wake Forest 62
Wichita St. 69, Tulane 68
William & Mary 71, Hofstra 42

MIDWEST
Bradley 71, Loyola of Chicago 50
Creighton 78, Seton Hall 61
Dayton 72, VCU 67
Dayton 67, Saint Joseph's 61
Dayton 75, Missouri 67
Dayton 67, Oakland 51
Iowa 50, Wisconsin 71
Marquette 76, Butler 54
Milwaukee 76, Detroit 61
Northwestern 60, Nebraska 56
Purdue 70, Indiana 61
Purdue 70, Illinois 58
Saint Louis 75, UMass 56
Valparaiso 61, Illinois St. 70

SOUTHWEST
Kansas St. 62, Oklahoma St. 85, OT
TCU 82, Iowa St. 72

PAC WEST
Arizona 72, Washington St. 57
California 67, Oregon 68
California 88, Utah 74
Oregon 93, Southern Cal 67
Stanford 68, Colorado 66

AP spotlight

Feb. 18

1924 — Theresa Weld Blanchard wins her sixth and final U.S. figure skating championship. Sherwin Badger wins his fifth straight and final men's title.

1928 — At Moritz, Switzerland, the youngest Sonja Henie wins her sixth straight figure skating title.

1931 — Arrest orders are given for three City College basketball players who were professional gamblers and intermediaries in a game-fixing scandal.

1936 — Bob Pettit in the U.S. Soccer's career-high 57 points in a 141-138 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

1977 — Richard Yonick wins his fourth Daytona 500 for his 149th career Winston Grand National victory.

1978 — Fifteen competitors travel to Waikiki for the first Hawaiian Iron Man Triathlon, a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike race and 26.2-mile marathon, won by American Haller.

1985 — San Antonio's Alvin Robertson records the second quadruple-double in history, with 20 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals in the Spurs' 120-114 win over Phoenix.

1995 — Dale Earnhardt holds a tire with one mile remaining in the Daytona 500, giving unheralded Derrick Cope the

The Genesis Invitational

Sunday

Riviera Country Club

Los Angeles

Yardage: 7,544 Par: 71

Final Round

Adam Scott, \$1,674,000, 62-69-70-273 -11

Jung Kang, \$703,700, 71-68-68-275 -9

Scottie Scheffler, \$1,399,800, 69-70-69-275 -9

Matt Kuchar, \$703,700, 64-69-72-275 -9

Joel Dahm, \$318,900, 68-71-66-276 -8

Jason Day, \$1,674,000, 68-70-69-276 -8

Sam Horsfield, \$1,399,800, 70-69-70-276 -8

Max Homa, \$318,900, 72-69-65-276 -8

Justin Thomas, \$1,399,800, 71-69-69-276 -8

Rory McIlroy, \$318,900, 68-69-68-276 -8

Thomas Aquino, \$1,399,800, 70-69-68-276 -8

D. Johnson, \$324,825, 72-66-67-277 -7

Chevy Chase, \$234,825, 69-68-71-277 -7

Jason Hahn, \$176,700, 70-69-70-278 -6

K. Hoon Lee, \$176,700, 67-73-69-278 -6

Wesley Conroy, \$1,399,800, 70-69-70-278 -6

H. Varner, \$1,176,700, 67-68-74-278 -6

C. Bello, \$1,176,700, 69-69-72-279 -5

P. Hunter, \$1,176,700, 68-72-71-278 -5

W. Clark, \$1,176,700, 67-68-72-279 -5

H. Hunter, \$1,176,700, 67-68-72-279 -5

Scottie Scheffler, \$1,176,700, 70-69-70-279 -5

Sam Burns, \$89,745, 73-68-69-280 -5

J. Schaeffer, \$89,745, 72-70-69-280 -5

Brian Stuard, \$89,745, 72-68-69-280 -5

Adam Hadwin, \$70,680, 71-71-69-280 -5

M. McQuinn, \$70,680, 73-67-69-280 -5

Sebastian Munoz, \$70,680, 69-70-73-281 -3

Wichita St., Tulsa 68

J.T. Poston, \$55,734, 69-72-71-281 -3

M. Fitzpatrick, \$55,734, 71-68-72-282 -2

U. Lee, \$55,734, 71-68-72-282 -2

Ryan Moore, \$55,734, 71-71-69-282 -2

U. Lee, \$55,734, 71-68-72-282 -2

S. Scheffler, \$55,734, 69-72-71-282 -2

Wichita St., Tulsa 68

P. Casey, \$41,385, 69-69-70-283 -1

Sergio Garcia, \$41,385, 70-71-71-283 -1

Justin Thomas, \$41,385, 71-69-70-283 -1

Si Woo Kim, \$41,385, 69-69-73-283 -1

W. Clark, \$41,385, 69-69-73-283 -1

D. McCarthy, \$41,385, 69-72-72-283 -1

A. Anon, \$33,745, 72-69-73-284 -1

Ch. Kim, \$33,745, 72-69-73-284 -1

Marlin Lad, \$32,085, 72-71-72-284 -1

Ch. Kim, \$32,085, 72-69-73-284 -1

Brian Harned, \$25,482, 70-69-74-285 +1

Ch. Kim, \$25,482, 72-69-73-285 +1

Adam Schenk, \$25,482, 67-73-74-285 +1

Marlin Trarner, \$25,482, 72-72-74-285 +1

Ch. Kim, \$25,482, 72-72-74-285 +1

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Ch. Kim, \$25,482, 72-72-74-285 +1

Ch. Kim, \$25,482, 72-72-74-285 +1

College baseball

Sunday's scores

SOUTH

Aia, Huntsville 10, Delta St. 3

Alabama, 6, Northeastern 3

Albany, 13, Ark. Pine Bluff 7

Albany, 13, Ark. Pine Bluff 7

Albany, 13, Ark. Pine Bluff 7

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Al

NBA

Team LeBron wins All-Star Game

Leonard named MVP: 'This one's for (Kobe)'

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Players were taking charges, bodies were hitting the floor, calls and non-calls were being screamed about on both ends. The fourth quarter of the NBA All-Star Game was as intense as the final moments of a playoff game, the biggest stars in the league holding absolutely nothing back.

And in the end, Anthony Davis was a hometown hero by making a free throw.

Kobe Bryant — ever the competitor — would have simply loved the way this night went.

"That was pretty damn fun," a sweat-soaked, exhausted LeBron James said at the end.

Davis made a game-ending free throw to give Team LeBron a 157-155 win over Team Giannis in the revamped NBA All-Star Game on Sunday night, the format overhauled to put in elements for charity and ensure that someone was going to hit a shot to end the game.

That someone was Davis, the Chicago native who missed the first free throw and made the second to end the NBA's midseason showcase that went down as the closest All-Star Game since the Eastern Conference topped the Western Conference 141-139 in 2010.

Kawhi Leonard, the game's MVP and the first recipient of the trophy now named for Bryant, scored 30 points for Team LeBron, while James — his team's captain — and Chris Paul each scored 23, and Davis finished with 20.

"This one's for him," Leonard said, speaking of Bryant afterward.

Giannis Antetokounmpo, who captained his team, led his squad with 25 points, Kemba Walker had 23 for Team Giannis, Joel Embiid scored 22 and Rudy Gobert added 21.

"I think it was really interesting," said Team Giannis coach Nick Nurse of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors. "It was really fun, each and every quarter, from a coaching standpoint."

The finish was frantic, and then some. James tried a layup that would have put his team on one point away — it was blocked by Antetokounmpo, called a goaltend at first but ruled a clean block after review. Team LeBron controlled the resulting jump ball and James tried a 40-footer to end it but missed.

James Harden then had a chance to win it for Team LeBron, and his three-pointer went in — but it was waved off by Kyle Lowry taking a charge against the NBA's scoring leader. James got a dunk not long afterward to make it 156-153, and Embiid made two free throws to cut Team LeBron's lead to one.

With that, it was next-basket-



PHOTOS BY NAM HUN/AP



Above: Kawhi Leonard, of Team LeBron, blocks the shot of opposing team captain Giannis Antetokounmpo during Sunday's All-Star Game in Chicago. Left: LeBron James celebrates during Sunday's 157-155 All-Star victory over Team Giannis.

wins time.

"Really cool," Nurse said.

Davis was fouled on the next trip, got the free throw to win it, and that was that.

"I told my team I was going to miss the first one to put a little more pressure on myself here at home," Davis said.

James' team wore blue jerseys, all with the No. 2 for Gianna Bryant. Antetokounmpo's team wore red, every player wearing No. 24 on the back for Kobe Bryant. And on their right shoulders was a black circular patch with nine stars, one for each victim of the helicopter crash that took the lives of Bryant, his daughter and their seven friends on Jan. 26.

"His presence was felt," James said.

And with the new rules, the teams went at it in the fourth:

Antetokounmpo got out to block a shot by James, Lowry took a charge from his former Toronto teammate in Leonard, elbows got in collisions for rebound positioning, Paul was screaming encouragement to Team LeBron teammates in a time-out — all adding up to an intensity hardly ever seen in All-Star Games.

"To me, probably the best All-Star Game ever," Embiid said. "Guys competed, it came down to basically the last shot, but I don't think you should be able to win on a free throw. But overall it was a lot of fun."

It was the first All-Star Game with a new format: The teams played a mini-game in each of the first three quarters, the scores starting at 0-0 in each of those periods and the winning team in each one earning \$100,000 for

their Chicago-area children's charity.

James' team won the first quarter 53-41, Antetokounmpo's team won the second quarter 51-30.

The third quarter had down-to-the-wire, big-money drama with \$100,000 on the line. But the teams finished the quarter tied 41-41, putting \$300,000 — the undecided \$100,000 more for the win — at stake in the final period.

The cumulative score at that point was Team Giannis 133, Team LeBron 124 going into the untimed fourth quarter — with another new twist. The NBA decided, as part of the series of Bryant tributes, that the winner of the All-Star Game would be the team that added 24 points, a nod to his jersey number, to whatever the leading total score was after three quarters.

That meant the target score was set: 157. The game clock was off. The shot clock stayed on. The stage for drama was perfectly set, and the All-Star Game — oft-maligned in recent years for a lack of competitiveness — was entertaining again.

Records: Team LeBron tied a single-quarter record with 53 points in the first quarter, James set the record by starting a 16th All-Star Game (breaking a mark he shared with Bryant), and James moved past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for most All-Star minutes in a career. Celeb watch: Among the stars of stage and screen in attendance

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	16	.704	1½
Philadelphia	34	21	.618	6
Brooklyn	25	28	.472	14
New York	17	38	.309	23

Southeast Division

Miami	35	19	.648	—
Orlando	24	31	.436	11½
Washington	20	33	.377	14½
Charlotte	18	36	.333	17
Atlanta	15	41	.268	21

Central Division

Milwaukee	46	9	.852	—
Indiana	32	23	.582	14½
Chicago	19	36	.345	27½
Detroit	19	38	.333	28½
Cleveland	14	40	.259	32

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	20	32	.600	—
Dallas	33	22	.600	1½
Memphis	28	26	.519	6
San Antonio	23	31	.426	11
New Orleans	23	32	.418	11½

Northwest Division

Denver	37	17	.691	—
Utah	36	18	.667	1½
Oklahoma City	33	22	.600	5
Portland	25	31	.446	13½
Minnesota	16	37	.302	21

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	41	12	.774	—
L.A. Clippers	37	18	.673	5
Phoenix	22	33	.400	20
Sacramento	22	33	.389	20½
Golden State	12	43	.218	30

Friday's game

2020 Rising Star Challenge

Team USA 151, Team World 131

No games scheduled

Saturday's games

2020 All-Star Game

Team LeBron 157, Team Giannis 155

No games scheduled

Tuesday's games

No games scheduled

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

Thursday's games

Milwaukee at Detroit

Memphis at Atlanta

Brooklyn at Philadelphia

Charlotte at Chicago

Memphis at Sacramento

Houston at Golden State

Calendar

April 15 — Regular season ends.

April 18 — Playoffs begin.

May 19 — Draft lottery, cgo.

May 21-24 — Draft combine, Chicago.

June 4 — NBA Finals begin.

June 25 — NBA Draft.

to watch basketball's All-Stars: Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Metta World Peace, Jennifer Hudson, Queen Latifah, Common, Chaka Khan (who performed the national anthem pregame), Chance the Rapper, DJ Khaled, Donnie Wahlberg, Bad Bunny, Guy Fieri, Jon Stewart, Jose Andres, Katei Okachi, Lil Wayne, Ladaaris, Patrick Mahomes and Spike Lee. Also there: Former Philadelphia star Allen Iverson, who wore Bryant's original No. 8 Lakers jersey along with a Lakers hat and drew roars from the crowd, along with Sue Bird, Megan Rapinoe and Diana Taurasi.

Tip-ins

Team LeBron: Paul threw down an alley-oop dunk from Russell Westbrook in the second quarter. According to Basketball-Reference, Paul's last dunk in a regular season game came in December 2015. He had two playoff dunks since... Arvydas Sabonis, who was never an All-Star during his career, was in attendance to watch son Domantas Sabonis' All-Star debut.

Team Giannis: Trae Young, no stranger to shooting from very deep, connected on a halfcourt shot to end the second quarter... Eight of Antetokounmpo's first 10 field goals were dunks — and he also missed a pair of slams in that span.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



JULIE BENNETT/AP

Auburn center Austin Wiley, right, shoots over Alabama forward Alex Reese. No. 11 Auburn, at 23-3, is in good position to make the NCAA Tournament.

After top 3, SEC teams on bubble for tournament

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

The SEC has three teams that should be locks for the NCAA Tournament.

The rest of the conference may have some work to do.

No. 11 Auburn (22-3) climbed as high as No. 5 in The AP Top 25 and was among the top 16 seeds in the NCAA's preliminary rankings earlier this month. The Tigers have lost just three times in their follow-up to the 2019 Final Four run.

No. 12 Kentucky (20-5) was No. 1 early in the season, among the initial NCAA top 16 and has won eight of nine.

No. 25 LSU (18-7) has slipped up lately with three losses in four games, but still should be in the field of 68, barring a late-season collapse.

Then things get interesting.

Florida (16-9) bounced back from losing four of six by beating Texas A&M and Vanderbilt last week. The Gators have a tough road ahead, though, with Arkansas, Kentucky (twice) and LSU still left on the schedule.

South Carolina (16-9) has a strange resume with wins over Kentucky and Virginia offset by home losses to Boston University and Stetson. Six wins in seven games and a winning SEC record (8-4) should help the Gamecocks' chances.

Arkansas (16-9) has gone from appearing to be safely in the bracket to being on the bubble.

The reason: Isaiah Joe's knee injury.

The sophomore guard was the SEC's sixth-leading scorer before undergoing knee surgery on Feb. 4. The Razorbacks have played four games since then and lost every one.

Arkansas has a couple of resume-building opportunities coming up, with games against Florida and LSU before the SEC Tournament.

Mississippi State's last-second win over Arkansas on Saturday was a huge boost to the Bulldogs' NCAA Tournament chances. The win was Mississippi State's second against a Quad 1 opponent and gives the Bulldogs (16-9) a chance at a 20-win regular season.

Alabama's waning NCAA Tournament chances got a huge boost with a win over LSU this week and a four-point loss to Auburn doesn't look too bad.

Rising

Virginia (17-7, 9-5 ACC). The reigning national



MARK ZALESKI/AP

Guard Immanuel Quickley and No. 12 Kentucky are 20-5 and have won eight of their last nine.

champions survived what could have been a debilitating loss by beating North Carolina by two and have some resume-building potential, with No. 7 Duke and No. 5 Louisville coming up.

Creighton (20-6, 9-4 Big East). Seven wins in eight games, including over No. 10 Seton Hall, has Greg McDermott's team in good shape.

Rutgers (18-8, 9-6 Big Ten). The Scarlet Knights' run toward their first NCAA Tournament since 1991 got a bump with a win over Illinois on Saturday.

Saint Mary's (21-6, 8-4 WCC). The Gaels won a can't-lose game against Pacific on Saturday and have a couple of more before facing No. 2 Gonzaga in the regular-season finale.

Falling

Illinois (16-9, 8-6 Big Ten). The No. 22 Illini have lost four straight and saw star Ayo Dosunmu go down with a knee injury against Michigan State. The good news: Dosunmu suffered no structural damage and Illinois has a solid resume to this point.

Stanford (16-9, 5-7 Pac-12). Once the surprise of the Pac-12, the Cardinal are stuck on the bubble after seven losses in eight games.

Memphis (17-7, 6-5 AAC). Blowing a 10-point lead in an overtime loss to Cincinnati was a big blow opportunity. Two games against Houston and another against Wichita State will be huge.

Virginia Commonwealth (17-8, 7-5 Atlantic-10). Three losses in four games makes Tuesday's showdown with Dayton massive.

Top 25 roundup

San Diego State routs Boise State, improves to 26-0

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — No. 4 San Diego State keeps winning, forcing coach Brian Dutcher to dig deep for creative ways to keep his team focused.

After the Aztecs beat Boise State 72-55 Sunday, he revealed some of his slogans that keep the team on task.

"Early in the year, we had five games in eleven days, so we were like, 'Let's win five in eleven,'" Dutcher said. "And then we had five games the entire month of December, so we said, 'Let's win five in December.' And we did it. I told our team they don't hang a banner for twenty wins, so we hung a banner with four to go."

His mantra changed after San Diego State (26-0, 15-0 Mountain West) wrapped up the conference regular season title, though his message hasn't.

The Aztecs, who own the nation's longest active winning streak, looked special in handling a Broncos squad that hadn't lost a home conference game since Feb. 27, 2019.

Malachi Flynn scored 22 points and dished out six assists to lead San Diego State in scoring, joined by all four of the team's starters in double digits. Yanni Wetzell added 14 points and seven rebounds.

Boise State (17-10, 9-6) struggled to find any rhythm on offense and finished the game shooting 41.2% from the field.

No. 15 Villanova 76, Temple 56: Collin Gillespie scored a season-high 29 points to lead the host

Wildcats over the rival Owls.

Jermaine Samuels added 13 points and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl had 10 for Villanova (19-6), who won their seventh straight game over Temple while finishing 4-0 in the Big 5.

Quinton Rose scored 22 points and Nate Pierre-Louis had 16 for the Owls (13-12).

No. 17 Oregon 80, Utah 62: Payton Pritchard scored 25 points and led an early three-point shooting spree as the host Ducks rolled over the Utes.

Shakur Juiston had 11 points and freshman Addison Patterson finished with 10 off the bench as Oregon shot 58% from the field and made half of their 24 three-point attempts. The Ducks (20-6) regained a share of first place in the Pac-12 with Colorado at 9-4.

Utah (14-11, 5-8) was led by freshman Ryan Jones with 18 points. Brandon Carlson and Timmy Allen each had 10.

No. 21 Iowa 58, Minnesota 55: Luka Garza scored 24 points, Ryan Kreiner added 10 points and the visiting Hawkeyes came back to win.

The Gophers' Daniel Oturu missed the front end of a 1-and-1 free-throw attempt with a chance to tie it with 3.8 seconds left and Iowa (18-8, 9-6 Big Ten) came away with a rare road win in conference play.

Oturu scored 15 points and Marcus Carr added 10 points, eight rebounds and six assists for Minnesota. Gabe Kalscheur 12, but the Gophers (12-12, 6-8) lost for the fourth time in five games.



STEVE CONNER/AP

San Diego State forward Yanni Wetzell, left, backs in against Boise State center Robin Jorch during the No. 4 Aztecs' 72-55 win Sunday in Boise, Idaho.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/AUTO RACING

Presence: F Smith 'hoopin' for No. 9 Terps

FROM BACK PAGE

upset loss with a late block in last Tuesday night's 72-70 escape against Nebraska.

"Stix has been terrific. I knew he was going to block that shot," a relieved Maryland coach Mark Turgeon said after the narrow victory.

Senior guard Anthony Cowan Jr. leads Maryland in scoring and assists but is quick to acknowledge Smith's play has been a difference-maker for the Terps (21-4, 11-3).

"He's hoopin'. He knows what he's supposed to do — scoring, rebounds," Cowan said. "We need him to do that."

"Hoopin'" is not in the dictionary, but it adequately describes Smith's performance of late. A complete basketball player who is dominant on both ends of the court.

"It's just me being more assertive and making sure that I try to grab every rebound that comes off that rim," Smith said. "I know my offense

is always going to come to me, so I'm not really worried about that. I just focus my emphasis on defense, and once I get my rebounds going and my defense going, offense just flows."

Though Smith is imposing inside, he provides opposing defenses an additional challenge with his ability to pop a shot from beyond the arc. He's nailed 13 three-pointers in his past eight outings and is 22-for-47 in Big Ten games — including a big three pointer with 3:08 remaining to start Maryland's game-closing run against Michigan State on Saturday.

"What he's shooting in league play from the three-point line is pretty incredible," Nebraska coach Fred Hoiberg marveled. "The kid is such a unique player because of his skillset and his size. And that athleticism. Defense, what he did against Rutgers was incredible."

In addition to rejecting a half-dozen shots by the Scarlet Knights, Smith snagged 15 rebounds and hit a trio of three-pointers. Smith has made 26 shots from beyond the arc compared to 19 all of last year.

"He's a really good player to begin with, and you add (Smith's three-point shooting) in and it gives a another dimension to their offense," Rutgers coach Steve Pikiel said.

Smith went 4-for-6 beyond the arc in a 77-76 win at Indiana and capped a 29-point effort with the game-winning shot. To celebrate, he taunted the crowd with such exuberance that Turgeon bolted across the floor and grabbed Smith's jersey while scolding him.

"I just lost my emotions. I couldn't control them," Smith said.

"Very uncharacteristic of Jalen," Turgeon said. "If you knew him, he's a great kid."

Maryland has never won the Big Ten title since joining the league in 2014, and for that to happen the first time, the Terps are going to have to stay hot over their final six games. On the positive side, Maryland is riding a four-game road winning streak and has Smith on its side.

"He does what it takes to win," Turgeon said. "I'm happy for him. He's playing well."



PHOTOS BY SAUL LOEB, ABOVE, AND ALEX BRANDON, BELOW/AP

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump ride in the presidential limousine as they take a pace lap ahead of the start of the NASCAR Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Sunday. Trump became just the second sitting president to attend the Daytona 500, serving as grand marshal for the race, which was postponed due to rain after 20 laps.

Long lines to see Trump, Daytona 500

Rain postpones race just 20 laps after president's call for drivers to 'start their engines'

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Ricky Stenhouse Jr. was wearing his firesuit and had just finished signing autographs for fans stuck in long lines to enter Daytona International Speedway when he was stopped by Secret Service agents. Not even the Daytona 500 pole-sitter was immune from the security checkpoint, so Stenhouse extended his arms, clutched his phone and stood still as a wand was waved around him.

His No. 1 starting spot secured, Stenhouse had to wait because of heightened security measures sparked by the arrival of No. 45: President Donald Trump became just the second sitting president to attend the Daytona 500 on Sunday.

Trump served as grand marshal for the race and gave the command for drivers to start their engines. The United States Air Force Thunderbirds performed a second flyover after Trump addressed the crowd.

He also took a parade lap around the 2.5-mile speedway in his armored limousine, leading the 40-car field before the green flag. The presidential motorcade remained on the apron in the corners instead of taking to the high-banked turns.

Thousands cheered and a band played patriotic music when Air Force One flew over the famed track, a flyover that was simultaneously shown on big screens. Trump's presence energized fans and caused huge headaches because of logistical issues at entrance points. The super-speedway-sized lines spurred Stenhouse to perk up fans who helped sell out the Daytona 500 for the fifth straight year.

"I didn't have anything to do because my appearances got moved around and I saw that line and I felt so bad for everybody out there having to wait," Stenhouse told The Associated Press. "Everybody seemed



President Donald Trump speaks before the start of the Daytona 500 on Sunday.

patient and didn't mind having to wait too much. The atmosphere was pretty good."

Stenhouse led the first 20 laps of the 200-lap race and will be up front again in his No. 47 Chevrolet when the rain-postponed event resumes Monday afternoon.

Trump, with first lady Melania Trump by his side, addressed the crowd before the race and called the Daytona 500 "a legendary display of roaring engines, soaring spirits and the American skill, speed and power that we've been hearing about for so many years."

"For 500 heart-pounding miles, these fierce competitors will chase the checkered flag, fight for the Harley J. Earl trophy and make their play for pure American glory," Trump said. "That's what it is, pure American glory."

He ended his remarks to chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A," and with his 2016 campaign

tune, "You Can't Always Get What You Want" blaring over loudspeakers.

Hailee Deegan, billed as "NASCAR's Next Big Superstar," took to Twitter in hopes of getting her helmet signed by Trump. Donald Trump Jr. tweeted at her, "DM me... I may know someone."

Deegan accomplished her goal and got the president's signature on her helmet.

For all the pomp, Trump's arrival caused more jams around Daytona than a multicar pileup on the frontstretch. Driver appearances were canceled or shuffled around to other areas on track property. The red carpet was rolled out for Trump and so was the green flag — the start of the race was pushed back 13 minutes to accommodate his pace lap in the armored presidential limo called "The Beast."

"Any time the President who runs your country is coming to a sporting event that you are involved in, it says a lot about the sporting event and how much this race means to everybody," Stenhouse said. "You've got to respect the one that's in the charge."

Daytona fans were largely enthusiastic over Trump's cameo, wearing T-shirts and hats in support of his campaign. Some draped themselves in Trump 2020 banners that flowed like capes.

The good times were dampened, though, near several gates as thousands of fans waited hours to get inside. The popular fan zone — where fans can chug beers, listen to live music and purchase race merchandise — had three-hour waits.

"We would like a refund," said Kay Maiden, attending her first Daytona 500. "My feet are sore. I've been standing in that line for three hours. I paid \$100 to stand in line for three hours, and that's not a good thing. We got water, but there's no place to go to the bathroom. It's definitely very unorganized."

NHL

Devils trade captain Greene to Islanders

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The New York Islanders solidified their defense for the playoff push Sunday, acquiring New Jersey Devils captain Andy Greene.

The Devils got young defenseman David Quenneville and the Islanders' second-round pick in the 2021 draft in return for Greene.

The deal came eight days before the NHL trade deadline on Feb. 24.

The Islanders have been searching for a quality defenseman since losing Adam Pelech to an Achilles tendon injury on Jan. 2. It also gives them a lefty-shooting defenseman on a team filled with right-handed defensemen.

The deal reunites the 37-year-old Greene with Islanders president and general manager Lou Lamoriello, who signed him as an undrafted free agent out of Miami (Ohio) University in 2006.

New Jersey later traded forward Blake Coleman to Tampa Bay for 19-year-old left wing Nolan Foote and a 2020 first-round draft pick the Devils previously acquired from Vancouver. The deals give the Devils eight selections in this year's NHL Draft, including three in the first round.

Greene, who is in the final year of a five-year, \$25 million contract, had a no-trade clause and had to approve the deal. His 14 seasons in New Jersey, which included a trip to the Stanley Cup Finals in 2012, made him the Devils' longest-serving active player.

Devils interim general manager Tom Fitzgerald said he has talked to Lamoriello frequently over the past month.

"Lou is trying to help his team win right now," said Fitzgerald, who has known Lamoriello since their days at Providence. "Andy is a guy that he obviously knows very well and feels very comfortable with him. We're in this situation where playoffs aren't in the picture for us."

Greene became a fan favorite in New Jersey for his steady play and shot-blocking ability. He has 49 goals, and 197 assists for 246 points in 932 games, which rank seventh on the Devils' career list.

Fitzgerald added he didn't take parting with Greene lightly, saying he consulted with the player throughout trade discussions.

Greene goes from the Devils team that sits last in the Metropolitan Division to the Islanders, who began Sunday holding the division's third playoff berth.

Fitzgerald said he will listen to offers for his players. Forward Wayne Simmonds and defenseman Sami Vatanen will be unrestricted free agents after this season.

"I am not telling anyone that this player or that player is off limits," said Fitzgerald, who took over when Ray Shero was fired in January. "I don't ask for anything. If someone wants to talk about one of my players that has a contract that's fine. Let me know."

Quenneville was selected by New York in the seventh round of the 2016 draft and has yet to match the offensive production he enjoyed in the Canadian juniors. He had 69 goals and 214 points in 250 games with Medicine Hat of the Western Hockey League.

Quenneville has spent the past two seasons splitting time between the Islanders AHL and ECHL affiliates. His brother John was a first-round pick by New Jersey in 2014 and is now a minor leaguer for the Chicago Blackhawks. They are both first cousins to Panthers coach Joel Quenneville.

Coleman had 21 goals and 10 assists in 57 games for the Devils this season. For his career, the 28-year-old has scored 57 goals and 37 assists in 237 games over parts of four seasons in New Jersey.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	60	37	11	12	86	109
Tampa Bay	59	39	15	5	83	211
Florida	61	31	21	8	71	201
Carolina	58	30	22	6	66	201
Buffalo	59	27	34	8	67	171
Montreal	61	27	26	8	62	184
Ottawa	59	20	28	11	155	200
Detroit	61	14	42	4	52	132

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	57	36	15	6	78	105
Pittsburgh	57	36	15	6	78	105
Columbus	60	30	18	12	72	166
Philadelphia	59	32	20	7	71	193
Washington	60	28	25	6	65	179
N.Y. Rangers	58	30	24	4	64	189
N.Y. Jersey	58	22	26	4	54	162

Western Conference

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	59	32	17	10	74	187
Dallas	60	34	19	6	74	151
Colorado	57	33	18	6	72	203
Nashville	58	22	22	7	65	189
Winnipeg	60	20	28	5	65	191
Minnesota	58	27	24	6	61	176
Chicago	59	25	25	8	60	176

Pacific Division

Edmonton	59	32	21	6	70	190	183
Vancouver	59	32	22	5	69	191	180
Vegas	60	30	22	8	68	189	183
Calgary	60	30	24	6	66	174	186
Arizona	61	29	24	8	66	170	166
San Jose	58	26	28	4	56	152	189
Anaheim	58	24	27	7	55	151	180
Los Angeles	59	21	33	5	47	145	187

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss, three points in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games
Boston 4, Detroit 1
St. Louis 5, N.Y. Jersey 3
Edmonton 4, Florida 1
Tampa Bay 5, Philadelphia 3
San Jose 5, Minnesota 0
Montreal 3, OT
Los Angeles 3, Colorado 1
Vegas 4, Calgary 3
Arizona 3, Washington 1
Vegas 1, N.Y. Islanders 1
Pittsburgh 5, Detroit 1
Nashville 2, St. Louis 1
Edmonton 4, Carolina 3, OT
N.Y. Rangers 5, Vancouver 1
Nashville 2, St. Louis 1
Ottawa 4, Dallas 3, OT
Washington 4, Columbus 3, 30
Buffalo 5, Toronto 2
Winnipeg 3, Chicago 2

Monday's games
Florida at San Jose
Philadelphia at Arizona
Washington at Vegas
Tampa Bay at Colorado
Los Angeles at Philadelphia
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at Ottawa
Pittsburgh at Carolina
Carolina at Nashville
Los Angeles at Winnipeg
Winnipeg at St. Louis
N.Y. Islanders at Chicago

Tuesday's games
Arizona at Dallas
Boston at Edmonton
Florida at Anaheim
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado
Minnesota at Vancouver



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Bruins center Sean Kuraly, left, controls the puck next to Rangers left wing Brendan Lemieux during the first period on Sunday at Madison Square Garden. The Bruins earned their ninth win in 10 games

Roundup

Surging Bruins top Rangers for ninth win in 10 games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chris McAvoy, Charlie Coyle and Patrice Bergeron scored, and the NHL-leading Boston Bruins began a four-game road trip with a 3-1 win against the New York Rangers on Sunday.

"We expect to play well every night," Bruins alternate captain Brad Marchand said. "When we play well, we are going to win a majority of the games. We just hold ourselves to a high standard. We don't accept losing in the room, or in the organization."

Jaroslav Halak made 25 saves as Boston picked up its ninth win in 10 games.

Mika Zibanejad scored for the Rangers, but their four-game winning streak was snapped. Alexander Georgiev made his third start in a row and had 31 saves. Coyle scored the winner with a short-handed goal at 18:42 of the second period. The forward stole a puck from Jacob Trouba at the blue line, then outskated everyone on the ice before converting a breakaway for his 14th of the season.

Predators 2, Blues 1: Kyle Turris scored with 2:12 left and host Nashville beat St. Louis to host the season series from the defending Stanley Cup champs.

Nashville improved to 13-11-4 at home. They now have won seven of their last 10, climbing within a point of the Western Conference's second wild card.

Tyler Bozak scored for the first-place Blues, and Jordan Binnington finished with 22 saves.

Penguins 5, Red Wings 1: Patrick Hornqvist had two goals and an assist as host Pittsburgh defeated Detroit.

Hornqvist has 14 goals this

season. Sidney Crosby scored his 11th, Kris Letang added his 14th on the power play and Sam Lafferty also scored for the Penguins, with moved within one point of first-place Washington in the Metropolitan Division.

Crosby extended his point streak to four games. He has six goals and 19 points in 12 games since returning from core muscle surgery on Jan. 14.

Matt Murray made 27 saves for Pittsburgh, which has won 11 of 15.

Oilers 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT): Josh Archibald scored his second goal of the game in overtime, NHL points leader Leon Draisaitl had a goal and two assists, and visiting Edmonton edged Carolina.

Draisaitl set up Archibald's goal 3:57 into overtime for his 95th point of the season.

Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist for the Hurricanes, including a tying goal with 5:02 left in the third period.

Edmonton is 3-1 without injured star Connor McDavid.

Ducks 5, Canucks 1: Adam Henrique scored twice, Derek Grant had a goal and an assist, and visiting Anaheim beat Vancouver.

The Ducks scored twice on the power play after going 1-for-21 with the extra man over their previous eight games.

The loss left the Canucks one point behind first-place Edmonton in the Pacific Division and one point ahead of Vegas. The Ducks remain 11 points out of a playoff spot.

Devils 4, Blue Jackets 3 (SO): Mackenzie Blackwood made a career-high 52 saves and stopped six of seven attempts in the shootout to lead host New Jersey over scuffling Columbus.

Nikita Gusev and Jesper Bratt scored in the tiebreaker for New Jersey, which beat the Blue Jackets for the first time in 10 meetings. The previous Devils victory over Columbus came in December 2017.

Pierre-Luc Dubois had the only shootout goal for the Blue Jackets, who dropped to 0-2-3 in their last five games.

Senators 4, Stars 3 (OT): Artem Anisimov scored at 3:48 of overtime to lift host Ottawa over Dallas.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau, Brady Tkachuk and Tyler Ennis also scored for the Senators.

John Klingberg, Stephen Johns and Joe Pavelski scored for the Stars as Dallas finished a 2-0-1 road trip.

Sabres 5, Maple Leafs 2: Jack Eichel scored the tiebreaker in the third period as part of a three-goal surge in 91 seconds that carried host Buffalo past Toronto.

Johan Larsson had a goal and an assist, and defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen and Colin Miller had two assists each for the Sabres, who won their third consecutive game.

Toronto dropped to 7-7-3 since a 9-0-1 run.

Jets 3, Blackhawks 2: Nathan Beaulieu's first goal of the season early in the third period sent host Winnipeg past Chicago.

Playing in his 27th game of an injury-riddled campaign, the defenseman fired a one-timer from the point that hit a Blackhawks player and got by goalie Corey Crawford to give the Jets a 3-2 lead. Beaulieu also had an assist.

Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist for Chicago (26-25-8), which completed a 1-4-0 trip.

MLB

Briefs

No deal: Dodgers' Pederson, Stripling back in usual blue

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Joc Pederson was back in a familiar clubhouse. He had the same dressing stall and many of the same teammates.

Not much had changed, except for him.

He felt awkward — and with good reason.

Pederson put his Dodgers uniform back on at Camelback Ranch over the weekend for the start of spring training. Just a week earlier, it looked like he would be performing these February rituals across town in Tempe.

For five days, Pederson appeared to be headed to the Los Angeles Angels along with pitcher Ross Stripling as part of several multiplayer trades surrounding Mookie Betts' move to the Dodgers. The Angels-Dodgers trade was eventually scrapped, but only after an uncomfortable amount of uncertainty for the players involved.

"I thought for sure I was going to the Angels," Pederson said. "It seemed pretty official. I was talking with my wife about what we were going to do living-wise, spring training-wise, talking about changing my cleats, everything."

Stripling thought the same thing. For a few days, he made plans to move on.

"I'm thinking I'm leaving all my friends and teammates," Stripling said. "The Dodgers are all I know."

Both Pederson and Stripling have only played for the Dodgers in their big league careers. But just as they began to pack, they learned the trade was off.

Pederson said he got the news from the Dodgers front office at about the same time the team's blockbuster deal with Boston for outfielder Betts and pitcher David Price was finalized.

"It was kind of up in the air the whole time, I guess," Pederson said. "There were different options or different avenues they could go, until that happened. It's a little awkward coming back. But I'm excited to be here, ready to win a World Series."

Bauer gives manager, GM contract extensions

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves extended the contracts of manager Brian Snitker and general manager Alex Anthopoulos on Monday.

Anthopoulos also was given an additional title of president, baseball operations, while his contract was extended through the 2024 season. Snitker and his coaching staff received extensions through

the 2021 season.

The Braves have won back-to-back NL East titles under Anthopoulos and Snitker.

The 64-year-old Snitker led the Braves to 97 wins last season. He is entering his fourth season as manager and his 44th season in the organization.

Baez says Cubs weren't prepared in 2019

MESA, Ariz. — Javier Baez wants his Chicago Cubs to be better prepared this season.

The two-time All-Star said Sunday at spring training that he and the Cubs were lacking last year when it came to their pregame routines and work ethic.

"We had a lot of optional things, not mandatory, and everyone kind of sat back on that — including me. I wasn't really going out there and preparing for the game. I was getting ready during the game, which is not good," Baez said. "But this year, I think before the games, everybody should be out there as a team, stretch as a team, be together as a team so we can play together."

New skipper David Ross said at the end of the day, from a manager's standpoint, coaches try to get players prepared and put them in the best possible situation to succeed, but baseball has "always been about the players."

Bauer: Reaction positive to playoff plan criticism

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Cincinnati Reds pitcher Trevor Bauer says he has gotten positive response to his criticism of a plan being considered by Major League Baseball to expand the playoffs, one that includes an extended break for top seeds and some teams choosing who they will play.

Bauer directed his ire toward Commissioner Rob Manfred in a tweet last week: "Your proposal is absurd for too many reasons to type on twitter and proves you have absolutely no clue about baseball. You're a joke."

After working out in Arizona, the All-Star pitcher said he hadn't spoken to the commissioner about the tweet or a lengthy video that Bauer also posted.

"Generally when I say stuff, people take it one way or the other," Bauer said Sunday about the general response to his criticism. "It's been mostly positive. I think when people speak and they come from a place of sincerity and like caring about the situation, you know, it's easy for people to identify that, and to hear that in the genuine nature of it."



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Oakland Athletics relief pitcher Liam Hendriks said he had to help somehow when fires ravaged his homeland in Australia this winter. He briefly got home to Perth but mostly campaigned on social media from a world away to generate awareness and support for Red Cross Australia.

Relief pitcher: A's Hendriks helps Australian fire victims

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — A world away, Liam Hendriks had to do something to help everyone affected by the ravaging fires back home in Australia.

The Oakland Athletics reliever campaigned on social media to do his part for the cause, no matter he grew up on the country's West Coast in Perth where the massive bush fires haven't been as devastating. He made a quick visit this offseason.

On Instagram, Hendriks encouraged contributions to Red Cross Australia. While he fully supported everyone rescuing koala bears and other animals from the flames, he also wanted to make sure the people affected received necessary support.

"Nothing is ever enough but the response was always positive, which is highly unusual for social media regardless of the tack you're taking," Hendriks said before a recent spring training workout. "We got a decent chunk of change that we sent over there. Hopefully it helps make a difference, but at the end of the day there's only so much we can do from over here. The awareness is the biggest part we're trying to raise."

Nobody is surprised to see Hendriks helping out. Everything he does is with a passion and care — known well for his thoughtful work off the field as much as his intensity on it.

Hendriks' reliability in the ninth inning has earned him a solid reputation, too. But you won't hear Hendriks say it. He plans to earn the job again.

"I don't want to be compla-

‘There's only so much we can do from over here. The awareness is the biggest part we're trying to raise.’

Liam Hendriks

Oakland Athletics pitcher on his relief efforts for Australian fire victims

cent," he said. "Going out there and making sure I put everything on the line every night is a big thing for me."

The Oakland closer received a nice raise when he signed a \$5.3 million, one-year contract last month to avoid salary arbitration.

The 31-year-old Hendriks is approaching this season as if he has everything to prove again.

The right-hander, a former opener for the A's, went 4-4 with a 1.80 ERA and 25 saves over a career-high 75 appearances spanning 85 innings.

"I don't want to dwell too much on last year because I don't want to rest on my laurels. I don't want to go out there and be like, 'Oh, I had my good year, I can ride that wave as long as I can,'" Hendriks said.

"I want to go out there and prove that it wasn't a fluke. I want to go out there and prove that no matter what happened last year I still need to win the job this year. I don't want to be gifted anything. I don't want to be given anything. I want to go out there and make sure that in spring training I prove that I want this role, I want this job and I'm going to run away with it and prove to everybody why I want it."

Hendriks became a key piece for A's manager Bob Melvin late in games last season as Oakland

earned the AL's top wild card before losing to Tampa Bay.

He got designated for assignment on June 25, 2018 — and has been through that almost a half-dozen times now — before starting Oakland's 7-2 wild-card loss at Yankee Stadium just more than three months later.

"You would expect that from somebody that's been through the trials and tribulations that he's been over his career, so I think it is more about him not relaxing at all," Melvin said. "He wants to be pushed, he wants to earn everything that he gets. He's come a long way. He had as dominant a year really as anybody in baseball."

He has learned from other times when he thought things were going smoothly, saying, "I don't like feeling like I've got it in the bag because as soon as I do something's always going to pop up," Hendriks said.

"I dealt with certain things very deeply in the past and my mindset to get over that was expect the worst and hope for the best," he said. "Expect the worst and if something good happens you're able to handle it, rather than expecting things and if they didn't come to fruition, falling out a rabbit hole and being kind of self-deprecating and all that."

MLB

Manfred: No tolerance for beanballs at Astros

By MARK DITTLER
Associated Press

NORTH PORT, Fla. — With baseball ablaze over the Houston Astros' cheating scandal, commissioner Rob Manfred met with nearly half of the major leagues managers Sunday and told them to knock off any notion of getting beanballs.

"I hope that I made it extremely clear to them that retaliation in-game by throwing at a batter intentionally will not be tolerated, whether it's Houston or anybody else," Manfred said. "It's dangerous and it is not helpful to the current situation."

Cody Bellinger, Kris Bryant, Trevor Bauer and Carlos Correa were among the All-Stars recently trading threats, accusations and barbs as spring training opened. The revelation of Houston's sign-stealing scam, the punishment imposed by Major League Baseball and poorly received apologies by the Astros further enhanced anger across the sport, with players, club management and fans all joining in.

"I think that the back and forth that's gone on is not healthy," Manfred said.

Manfred had previously planned to attend a news conference at the Atlanta Braves' new camp, along with managers and representatives of teams train-



Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred pauses before answering a question about the Houston Astros, during a news conference at the Atlanta Braves' spring training facility Sunday in North Port, Fla.

CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

ing in Florida to talk about the upcoming season. Instead of an uplifting look at the upcoming season, as this annual press session is, there was no doubt what was the No. 1 topic.

Manfred said he would personally talk to the managers of the teams that train in Arizona on Tuesday.

In further fallout from the Astros' scheme, Manfred said the

investigation into the Boston Red Sox could be completed within two weeks. He also said he planned to meet the players' union to discuss new rules limiting in-game video access.

"I do expect that we will for 2020 have really serious restrictions on player and playing personnel access to video in-game," Manfred said. "I think it's really important for us to send a message to our fans that not only did we investigate and punish, but we altered our policies in a way that will help make sure it doesn't happen again."

Manfred said MLB officials discussed vacating the Astros' 2017 World Series championship.

"First of all, it had never happened in baseball," Manfred said. "I am a precedent guy. The 2017 World Series will always be looked at as different, whether or not you put an asterisk or ask for the trophy back. Once you go down that road as for changing the result on the field, I just don't know where you stop."

Astros players were granted immunity for taking part in the investigation, but Manfred said that "if I was in a world where I could have found the facts without granting immunity, I would have done that."

"They had an obligation to play by the rules and they didn't," Manfred said. "I understand when say the players should have been punished."

Manfred said expanding the MLB playoff format is being discussed internally but that no decision has been reached.

Darvish: Astros should have 2017 title taken away

By BRIAN M. BERGNER JR.
Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Yu Darvish got hit hard by the Houston Astros during the 2017 World Series — both his ERA and reputation took quite a beating.

On Sunday, after a bullpen session for the Chicago Cubs, he sought to settle the score a bit. He said the Astros, their sign-stealing scheme exposed, should be stripped of their title.

"Like the Olympics, when a player cheats, they can't have a gold medal," the Japanese-born star said. "But (Houston) still has a World Series title. It does make me feel weird. That's it."

The 33-year-old pitcher became the latest player to criticize the Astros. But Darvish said he wasn't actually "angry" about the sign-stealing scandal that resulted managers AJ Hinch, Alex Cora and Carlos Beltran losing their jobs.

Pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Darvish lasted only 1 1/3 innings in both of his 2017 World Series appearances. He was tagged for four runs and six hits in Game 3 at Minute Maid Park in Houston, then the fourth time All-Star lost Game 7 at Dodger Stadium.

Darvish wound up with a 21.60 ERA in his two starts. The poor results led many to question whether Darvish was tipping his pitches, or not up to the challenge or just wasn't very sharp.

"I know they were stealing signs, but at the same time, I was not good during the World Series," Darvish said. "I'm better for what I went through. But, yeah, every-



GREGORY BULL/AP

Chicago Cubs pitcher Yu Darvish, who had a 21.60 ERA as a Los Angeles Dodger against the Houston Astros in the 2017 World Series, says their title should be taken away.

one is wondering about (their numbers) pitching against them. He also referenced the back and forth between former Dodgers teammate Cody Bellinger, the reigning NL MVP, and Astros star Carlos Correa. Darvish said the Astros should be more "apologetic."

"So they cheat, I think, right now, they don't have to talk. They shouldn't talk like that," Darvish said.

He said he's been getting harassed on Twitter by Astros fans posting images of the racist gesture Yuli Gurriel made at Darvish after homering off him in Game 3. Major League Baseball suspended Gurriel for the first five games of the 2018 season.

Fernandez, Blue Jays' all-time hits leader, dies

Associated Press

TORONTO — Tony Fernandez, a stylish shortstop who made five All-Star teams during his 17 seasons in the major leagues and helped the Toronto Blue Jays win the 1993 World Series, died Sunday after complications from a kidney disease. He was 57.

Fernandez was taken off a life support system in the afternoon with his family present at a hospital in Weston, Fla., said Imrad Hallim, the director and co-founder of the Tony Fernandez Foundation. Fernandez had been in a medically induced coma and had waited years for a new kidney.

Fernandez won four straight Gold Gloves with the Blue Jays in the 1980s and holds club records for career hits and games played.

"Not only was he a great ball player but a great human being as well. R.I.P. my brother. We will all miss you," former Toronto teammate Joe Carter tweeted.

A clutch hitter in five trips to the postseason, Fernandez had four separate stints with the Blue Jays and played for six other teams.

One of those was the New York Yankees, who replaced him at shortstop with a 21-year-old Derek Jeter in 1996. Fernandez was slated to slide over to second base and stick around as insurance, but he broke his right elbow (for the second time in his career) lunging for a ball late in spring training and missed the entire season.

Jeter, of course, went on to win AL Rookie of the Year and the first of his five World Series titles. Fernandez, who had been set to help ease Jeter's transition, was given a World Series ring by the Yankees that

season.

The next year, Fernandez caught on at second with the Cleveland Indians and was instrumental in their 1997 American League pennant. He batted .357 in the AL Championship Series against Baltimore and homered in the 11th inning at Camden Yards to give Cleveland a 1-0 victory in the clinching Game 6 — his only postseason home run.

Fernandez then hit .471 with four RBIs in the World Series against the Florida Marlins. His two-run single in the third inning of Game 7 put the Indians ahead 2-0, but the Marlins tied it in the bottom of the ninth and won 3-2 in 11 innings to take the championship.

In 43 career postseason games, Fernandez batted .327 with 23 RBIs and a .787 OPS.

A wiry switch-hitter with speed, Fernandez made his major league debut with the Blue Jays at age 21 in September 1983. He also played for the San Diego Padres, New York Mets, Cincinnati Reds and Milwaukee Brewers in a career that lasted through 2001.

He was a .288 hitter with 94 homers and 844 RBIs in 2,158 big league games. He remains the last Yankees player to hit for the cycle in a home game, accomplishing the feat in 1995.

Fernandez finished with 2,276 hits, 1,057 runs, 414 doubles, 92 triples, 246 stolen bases and a .746 OPS. He struck out only 784 times in 8,793 plate appearances — never more than 74 times in a season. Fernandez is Toronto's career leader in hits (1,583), triples (72) and games played (1,450).

SPORTS



Worth the wait?

Fans face long lines to see President, race » Page 20

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Imposing presence

Multitalented F Smith has been difference-maker for No. 9 Terps

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md.

Maryland's ascent to the top of the Big Ten standings coincides with the heightened effectiveness of sophomore forward Jalen Smith, who's notched eight straight double-doubles and become an intimidating shot-blocker for the resurgent Terrapins.

After losing two straight in mid-January, Maryland stood at 3-3 in the conference and was winless on the road. With

'He's hoopin'. He knows what he's supposed to do - scoring, rebounds. We need him to do that.'

Anthony Cowan Jr.
Maryland senior guard,
on sophomore Jalen Smith

Smith leading the way, the ninth-ranked Terps have since rattled off eight successive victories to gain sole possession of first place.

Nicknamed "Stix" in high school because of his wiry frame, the 6-foot-10 Smith hit the weight room after his freshman season. He tacked on 15 pounds to reach 225, and in the past three weeks has beefed up his stats in an effort to get Maryland deep into the NCAA Tournament.

Smith is averaging 18.5 points and nearly 12 rebounds during Maryland's eight-game run. In addition, he swatted away six shots in a win over Rutgers last week and saved the Terrapins from a potential

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Inside:

- San Diego State improves to 26-0 with victory over Boise State, Page 19
- Tournament dreams on bubble for much of SEC outside top 3, Page 19

Maryland sophomore forward Jalen Smith, pictured, is averaging 18.5 points and 11.9 rebounds in the Terps' 8-game winning streak.

DAVID BANKS/AP



Manfred warns teams not to bean Astros » MLB, Page 23

